CONVERSATION PIECE

CONVERSATION PIECE

HOW TO START A CONVERSATION

Where are we?

We acknowledge the Mouheneenner people as the traditional custodians of the country we are in as we write this. Our Hobart friends tell us we are located between the K-line and the Flannelette Curtain. We have been walking along the New Town Rivulet at lunch times. We are hosted by Kickstart Arts, a community arts organisation at St John's Park Precinct, North of Hobart, Tasmania. The local historians at the 'Friends of the Orphan School' have done some impressive research on this site. Even better, they have generously made it public at http://www.orphanschool.org.au/.

We are in a beige, institutional room, in a building that was the Girl's Orphanage, located to the left of St John's Church. The building is now managed by Kickstart Arts. We have set the room with a round table and tablecloths, wild flowers we collected on walks here, and some lovely art deco vintage chairs. Over a few days, we have slowly covered the walls of this room with our ideas. But when we leave, there will be no trace of us.

Who are we?

We are Frontyard (see glossary), a local, future-facing Not-Only-Artist Run Initiative based in Marrickville, Australia. In this book, 'we' is usually Connie, Julia and Ali, who participated in Hobiennale 2017 for four days between Nov 4-7, 2017. Our challenge was to translate Frontyard from a neighbourhood space and grounded community, to a different place, crowd, and object (this book).

Why conversations?

We challenge ourselves at Frontyard to keep bureaucratic processes as minimal and open as possible. We don't have an application or acquittal process: we prefer to meet people over a cup of tea. A conversation is a way to work through questions. These questions range from 'what should I do if I am alone at Frontyard at night and I don't feel safe?' to 'Is this an ARI?'.

Some questions can be answered on the spot, and some cannot. Overly complex bureaucratic processes rarely help answer questions.

We value conversation as an arts practice, a research method, a way of learning and teaching, and as a way of being human.

Conversations help us hold space open for us long as possible; they help us grow and define community; and through conversations we learn from each other.

Why a book?

We love books at Frontyard. A large proportion of our space is devoted to Frontyard library, which began as an art project by Benjamin Forster, and grew into a community asset. This book is a manifestation of a moment, a process, a collaboration. It is a mobile object, and a finished project. It both ends the conversation and keeps it going in different forms. It can start new conversations, which we hope this one does. We want this book to infiltrate some of the libraries in the world that matter to us.

Why so fast?

Actually at Frontyard, we generally like to go slowly, to take time and care. And in some ways, the thinking and talking for this book has been very slow. But we are at a festival, which always compresses processes and practices into performance and exhibition. As an object, this book provides a physical beginning and ending (front and back covers), and the Hobiennale has provided a temporal beginning and ending. So, we had four days. That's it.

What did we bring?

1. Our red teapot, which has been a great talking point as well as being highly functional for tea making.
2. A printout of our digital archive. We usually store this on the internet, where residents and event hosts upload digital images to a shared archive. For this project, as our first exercise in translation, we printed all these images. 2 kilograms of photographs.
3. A primer for this project that we made at Volume Book Fair at Artspace.

How did we go about it?

We designed a ritual, and invited the Hobart public, or more specifically the Hobiennale audience, to participate each day, over three days.

First, over one day, we tested the waters with our own community in Marrickville. This included janitors, past Frontyard residents, helpers or visitors to Frontyard, and first timers.

This was the daily ritual:
9-10: GIFT OF TIME (contributing to where we are)
10am-12midday: OPEN CONVERSATION
12-1pm: LUNCH
1-3pm: CONTENT-MAKING SESSION (bring whatever you want to work with)
3-5pm: CRITIQUE + FURTHER DISCUSSION

After three days of practising this ritual in Hobart, we held an open dinner and launched this book.

What next?

We might try this again sometime.
Some reflections from this experiment include:

- People in Hobart are very chatty and love conversation over a cup of tea (thank you!).
- It is easier, faster and smoother working with our own community, than with a wider public.
- Translation is difficult, slippery and inexact.
- There are serious limits to what you can do in three days.

SLOW DOWN

→ LISTEN ←

FEELING AT HOME IN THE ARCHIVE: STRATEGIES FOR START-ING
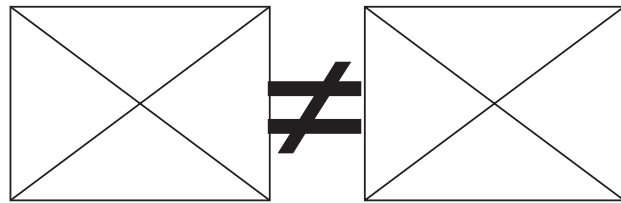
**GENERATE PRODUCTIVE FRICTION,
ANTAGONISTIC PAIRINGS**
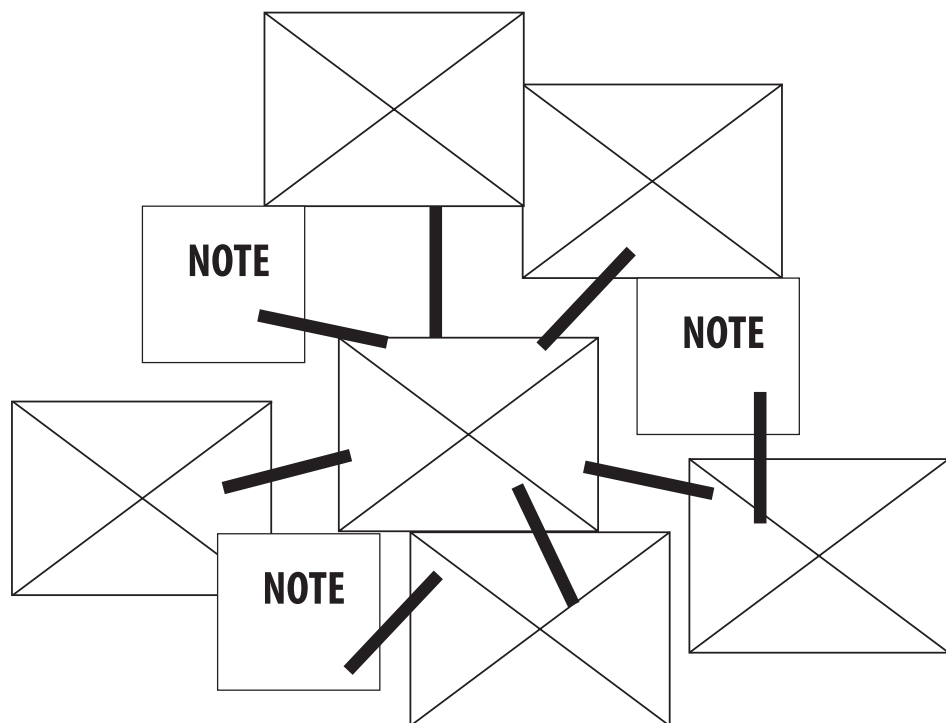
ASSOCIATIVE CLUSTER{FUCK},
COMPILE AN IMAGE CLOUD,
INCORPORATE NOTES/QUESTIONS,
THREAD A THOUGHT
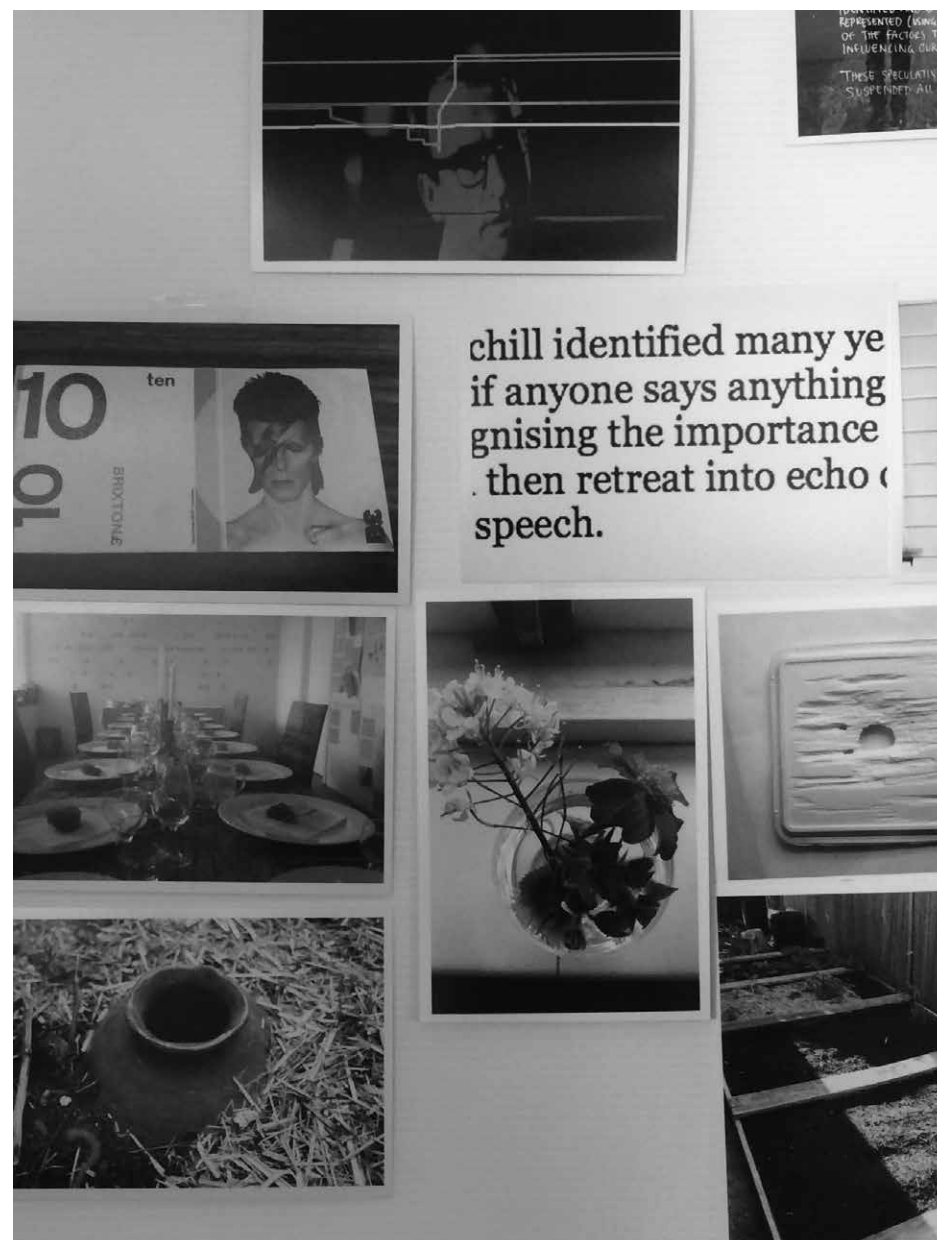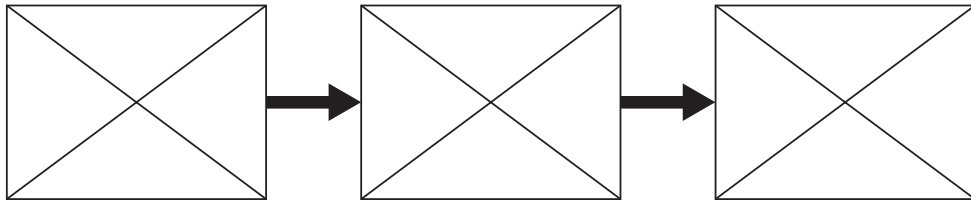
TELL A STORY, MAKE A FICTIONAL NARRATIVE, LINEAR, START AND END

**START A
LOOPING NARRATIVE
START ANYWHERE**
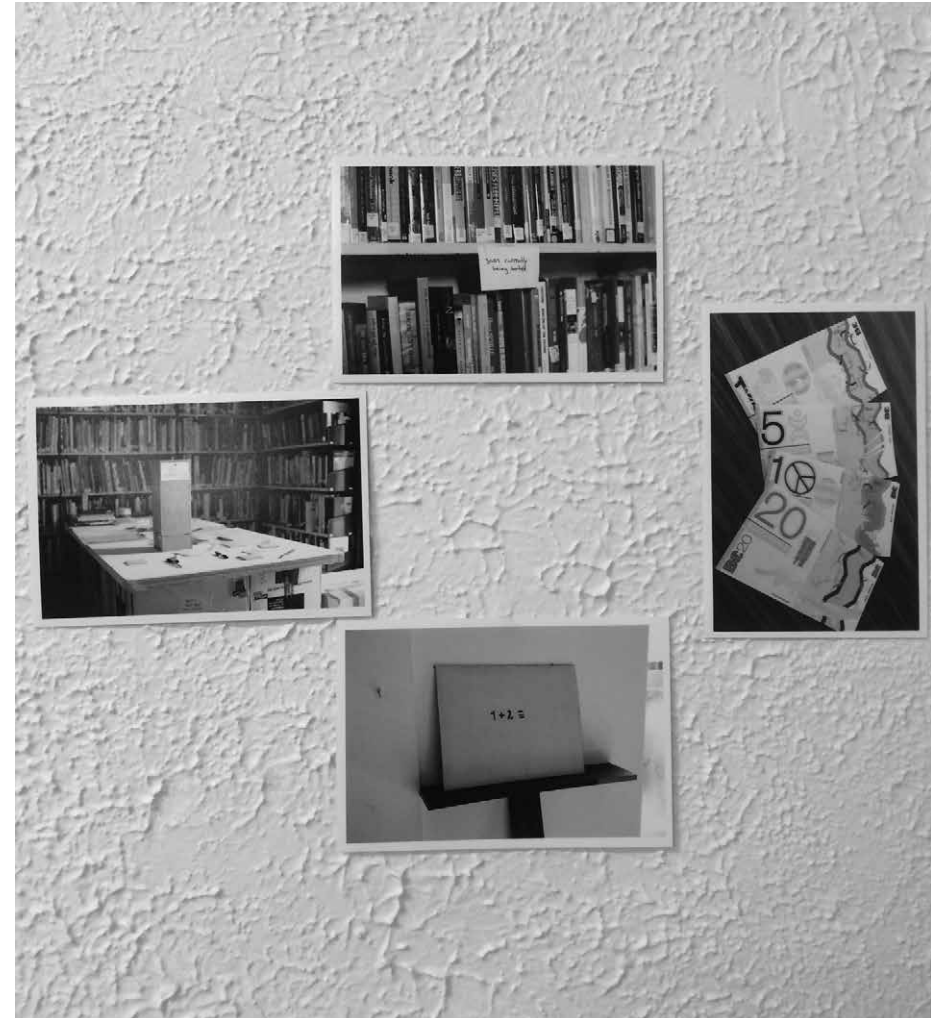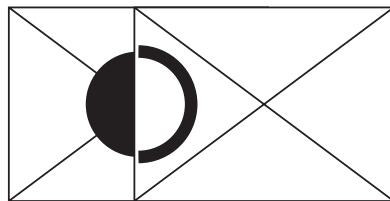
**'EXQUISITE CORPSE',
CONJOIN IMAGES**
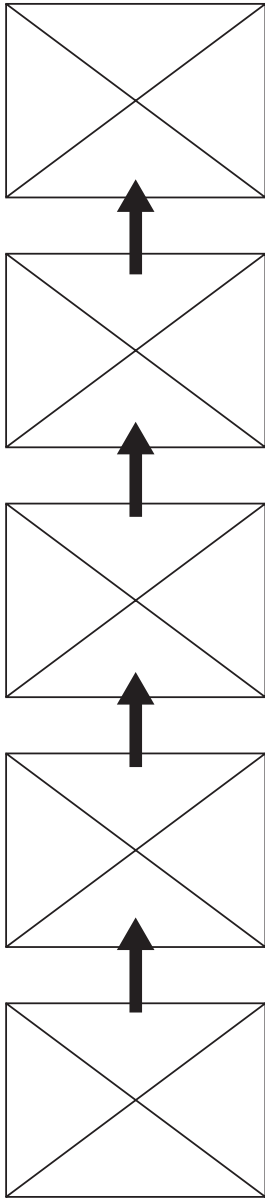
**BUILD UP FROM A BASELINE,
ADDITIVE ARGUMENTS,
SUPPORTIVE STRUCTURES**
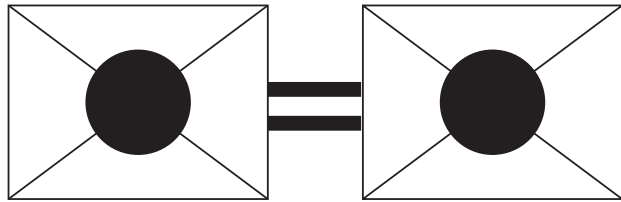
**IDENTIFY PATTERNS + REPLICATE
'THINGNESS' ACROSS IMAGES**
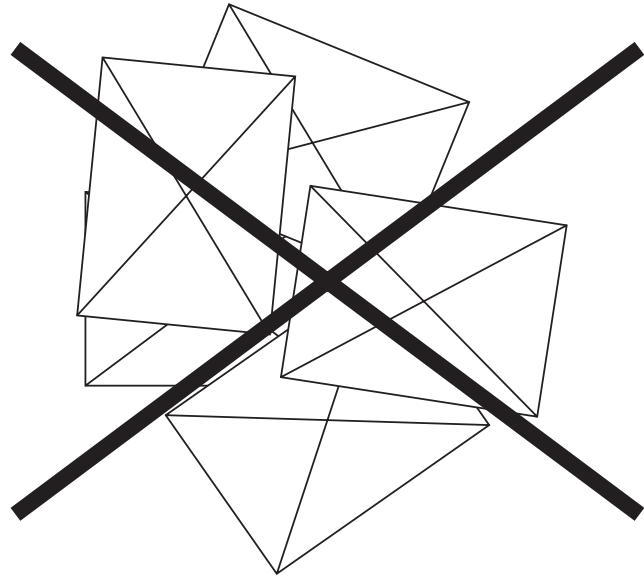
**PROPOSE A FAILURE SCENARIO,
EMBRACE CHAOS & MEANINGLESSNESS**
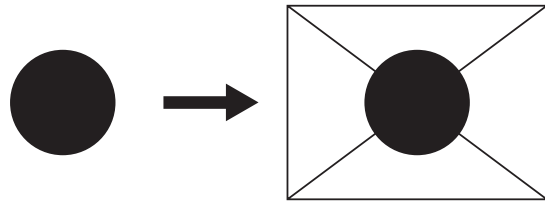
**SAMPLE FROM THE REAL WORLD,
FIND COROLLARIES IN THE ARCHIVE,
ADD TO THE ARCHIVE**

PURS-
LANE

Purslane was known to me in Portugal by the name beldroega. It is a bunch of stalks with small, slightly succulent leaves attached and is the main ingredient in at least two traditional soup recipes in the south.

One, the one that is followed by my family, consists of a cream of vegetables (onion, potato, carrot) with purslane leaves added just before the end of the cooking process, after the other vegetables have been creamed. The standard version of this soup calls for tomato as part of the vegetable base, but mum's family do not like tomato and never use it in cooking.

The second mainstream recipe for purslane soup involves sauteeing sliced onions and adding whole cloves of garlic with the skin on, sliced potato and the purslane, then adding water and boiling until the potatoes are tender. Just before the end of the process, fresh cheese and eggs are added. The soup is ready when the egg whites are mostly cooked but the yolks are still runny. It should be served with hard bread and extra virgin olive oil.

A few years ago, a friend whose father has a bit of land on the outskirts of Lisbon invited us to use some of that land to grow tomatoes. We all love tomatoes but the ones you get in supermarkets are usually quite flavourless so we wanted to grow some of our own. We bought seeds and started them in styrofoam food packaging trays in our studio, then transplanted them to the veggie plot when they were about 20 cm tall.

We could only go there on weekends so our friend's dad would water them for us. We had maybe ten plants. (That summer

we were knee deep in tomatoes and had to think of things to do with them, but that's another story.)

As we grew our purposely planted tomatoes, purslane spontaneously popped up alongside them. We watered it where it grew. It didn't need to be fed. Neither did the tomatoes: that plot of land being next to a horse stable, there was enough composted horseshit on it to feed anything and everything we put in.

The grown purslane was used for soup. So were some of the tomatoes; there's a tomato variation in the second recipe. We would have our friends around for lunch; they would bring a couple of bottles of wine and we'd make the soup and then sit around all afternoon talking. The soup should be made just before eating, so preparing it becomes a social activity of sorts. Purslane leaves are separated from stalks; bread is inspected and those bits deemed too dry to eat are chopped into cubes to be soaked in broth and olive oil. It is very filling; the type of soup that calls for a nap after lunch on a hot summer day.

In 2014 we moved to Australia, and took up residence in my late grandparents' house, a suburban freestanding house with front and back gardens. The grandparents had always had a veggie patch in the back, but in late 2009 they had it covered over as they were getting old and couldn't garden any more.

Growing veggies in Lisbon was very satisfying and we wanted to keep doing it; now we had the space to do so right at home. Shortly after arriving we dug up the turf and uncovered the veggie patch. It was mid October; we sowed some tomato

seeds, got some celery and beetroot seedlings and planted them in the earth. A few weeks later, we were surprised to find purslane popping up all over the patch. We watered it and it grew handsomely. We were very curious, examining it in comparison with photos of our previous purslane plants (the Aussie version seems to have slightly larger, less rounded leaves) and searching online for documentation on use of purslane in Australia. The only things we found were a reference to indigenous use of the seeds for flour and a couple of forums on foraging that listed it as a nutritious and tasty green.

Purslane seeds have a very long shelf (or earth) life: they will still grow after 7 or 8 years. Almost exactly 5 years had passed since the grandparents covered over the veggie patch; the purslane seeds waited patiently under the grass until sunlight and water signalled it was time to grow.

We make purslane soup every summer, and think of our friends.

...
Nuno Rodriguez de Souza & Isabel Brison

HAND GESTURES
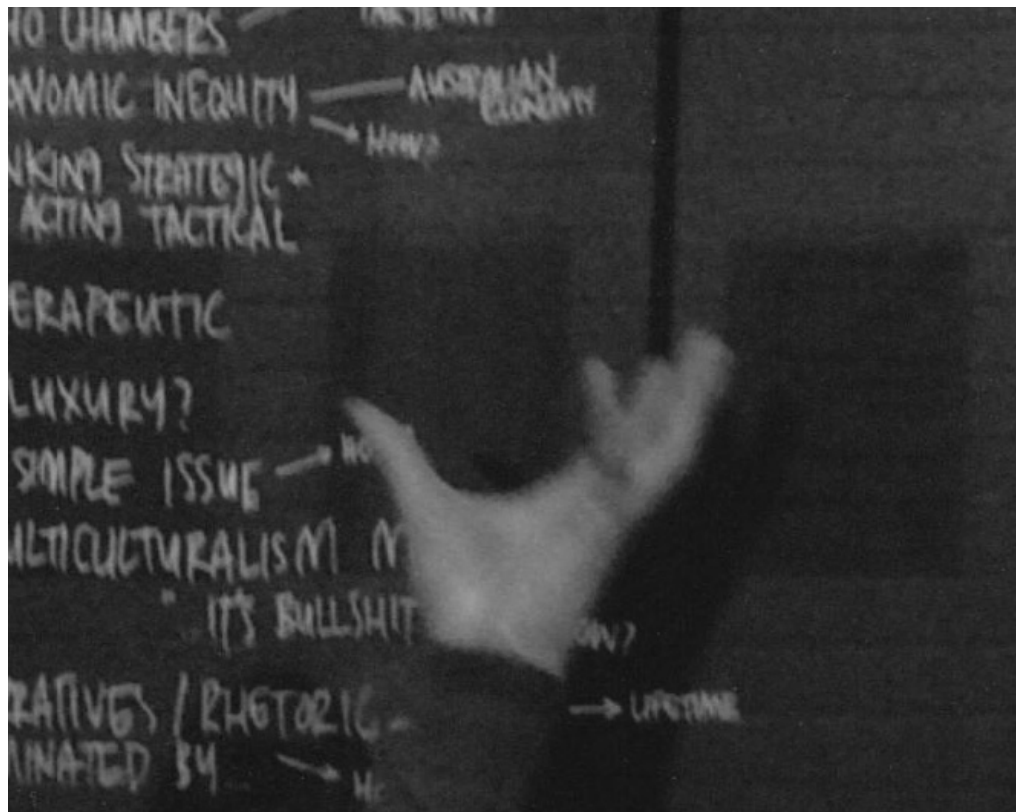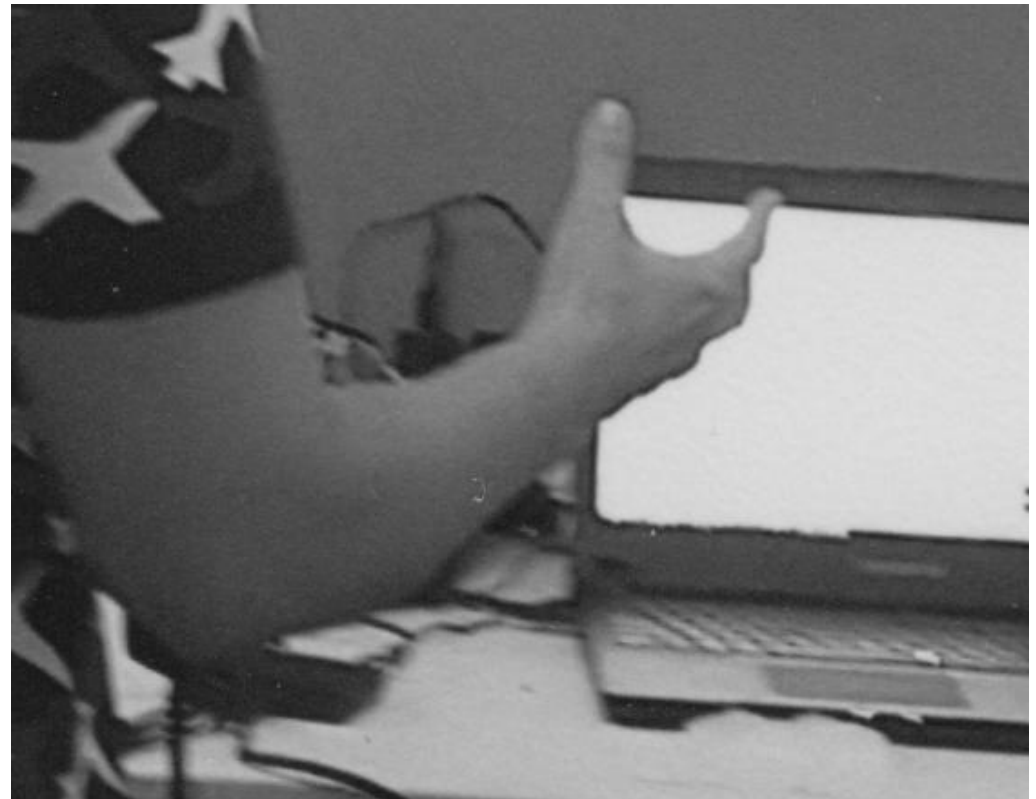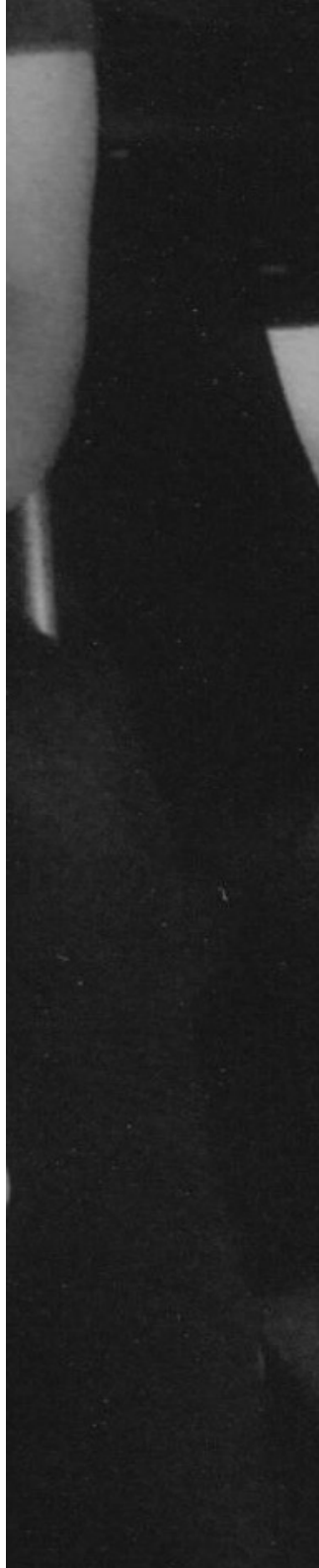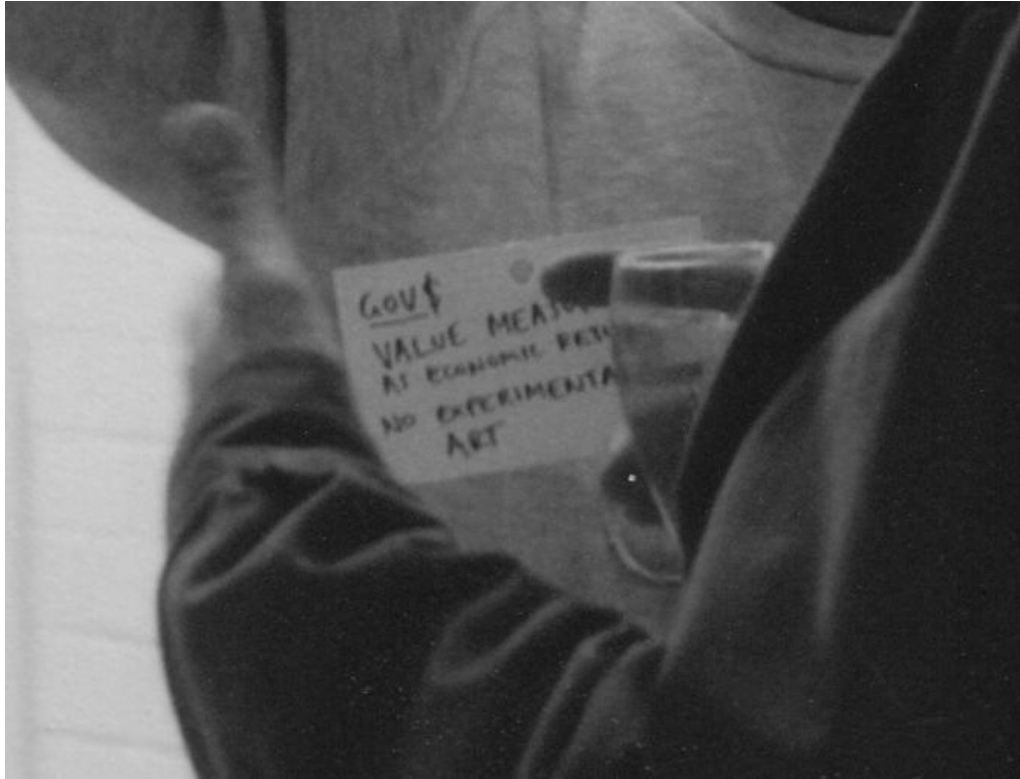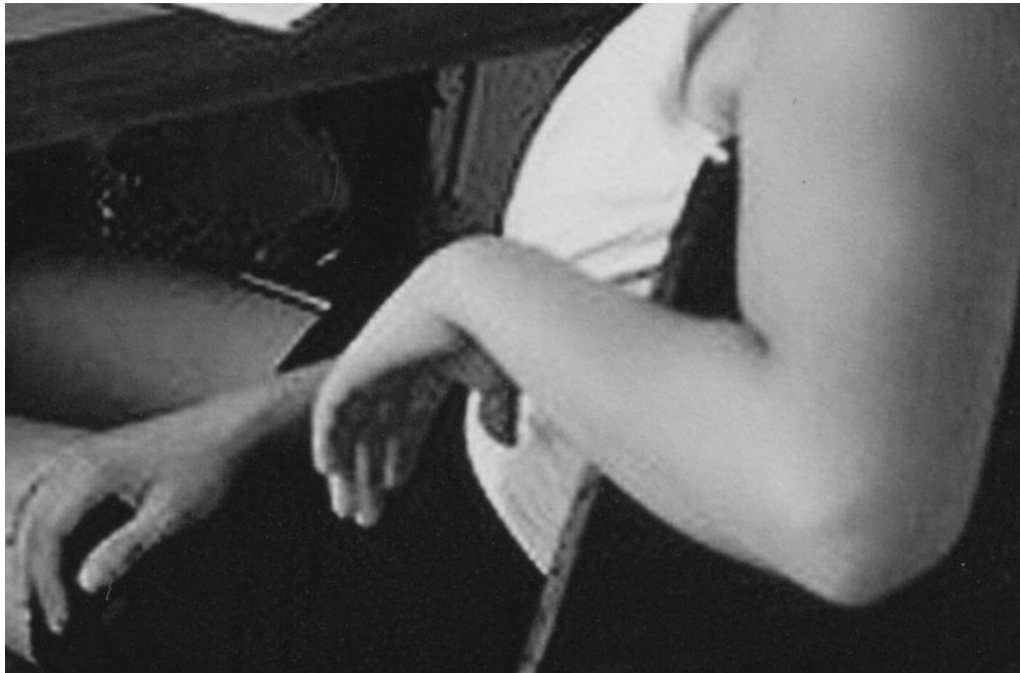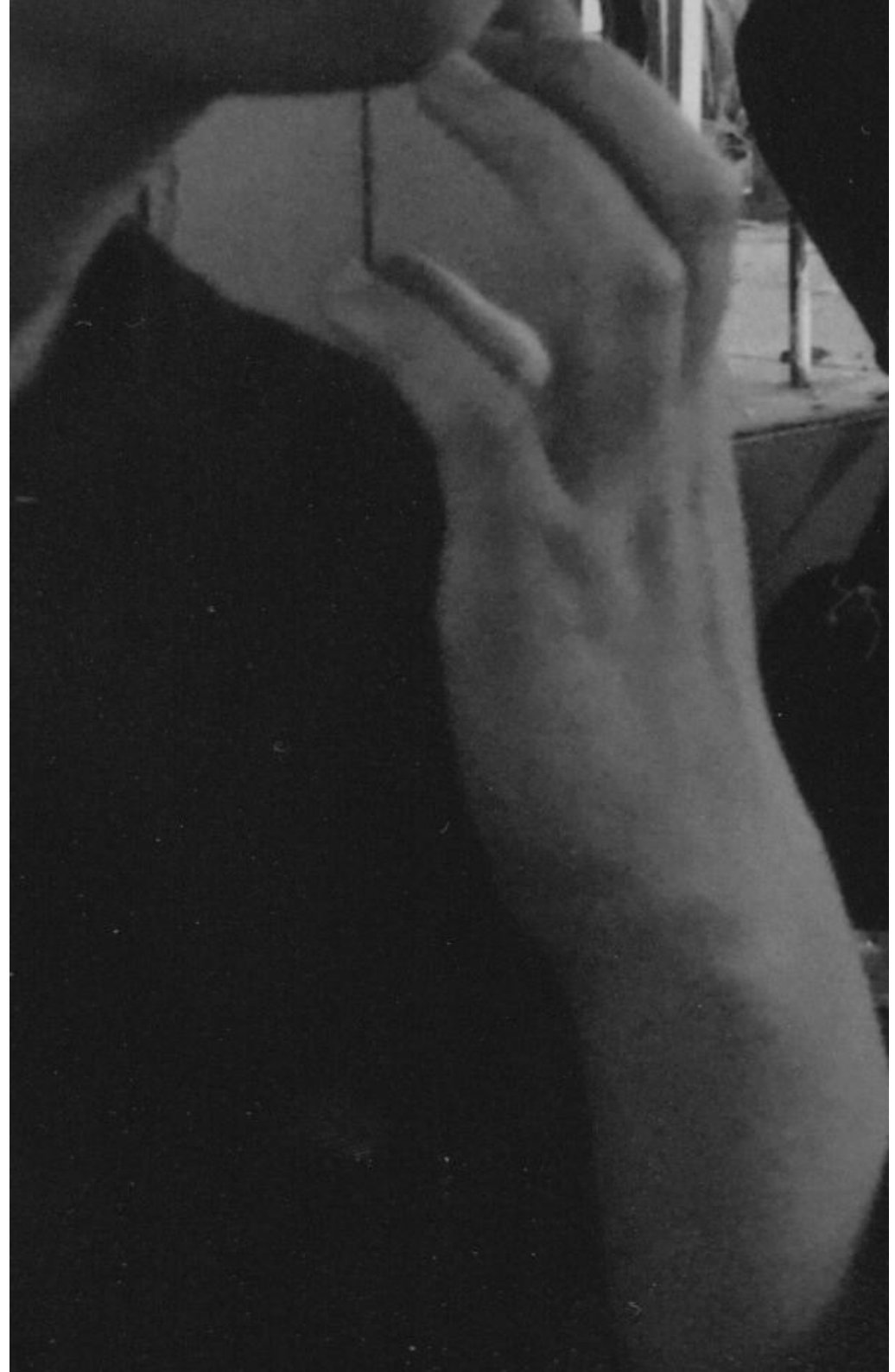
MOST VIEWED

Most viewed images from the Frontyard archive,
6 November, 2017 at 12:09pm. By number of all time views.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/139358427@N03/
https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/

1.

251 views

marrickville | inner west

inner west council

artsfuturing | futuring

double variable method

quadrants | frontyard

2.

233 views

bos16 | biennale

biennale of sydney

sydney biennale

arts futuring | frontyard

futuring | world fair

marrickville

inner west council

marrickville council

arts funding | arts cuts

freethearts

share economy | indoor

text

3.

217 views

Tags ⓘ

outdoor

SLOW DOWN LANGUAGE

A moment of your time.

An image of an image of a place in its pristine,
best-cared-for prime.
Fresh paint. Newness. Vigour.
Effort and passion being expended.

Then:
An image of that image, but from now.
Timeworn, less loved or more?
Your age is showing.

This is.
A place
To spend time, obscured by a sign.
The Sign as Signified.
Done. Already.
Nullified?

We could keep fixing the sign,
But then the real work would never get done.

TWO GARDENS

At St John's Park, there are two plots of land being used to grow food. City Farm is a working farm, using organic and bio-intensive methods and selling spray and synthetic chemical free produce through their online shop. We interviewed Lou and Bridgette as they were stocktaking after their Sunday tomato seedling sale (16 varieties).

Across the road, at St Johns Community Orchard there are plots available for people to grow their own food. We interviewed Ruth Mollison as she fed the chooks and planted wormwood, a natural pesticide, at the edge of the hut.

City Farm

FY: How did the farm start?

CF: There were market gardens here way back in the day, and then this was just a blank piece of ground basically, just grass. When we saw it, we were like 'hey that could work!' We had been looking for a place and had our eyes on some land in south Hobart and that kind of fell over, and Kickstart Arts is here, and they said that there was some space, and offered a peppercorn rent arrangement. That's it. We've been here for two years now.

FY: And it looks to be a success?

CF: Yeah it's going well yeah. I mean the ultimate plan is to try and make our livelihoods from it. I feel like we're not quite there. Last season we were making about 10 bucks an hour. We worked out the hours that we spent here, and kind of divided up the profits from shop.

FY: The farm is based on permaculture right?

CF: DC teaches permaculture, and Hannah. We are definitely aligned with permaculture, but we have mostly absorbed it by osmosis, rather than formally. So we have a perennial bed on the outside. And we use organic and bio-intensive methods, so you can see,

with the garlic bed for instance, everything is quite close together, so the idea is that you create a canopy that stops the weeds growing and maximizes the productivity of that area. Because we've only got a third of an acre, but we use it really efficiently.

FY: So this is the third year, and it's Spring, so this is an exciting time for farming.

CF: Yep, we will be opening our online shop soon. So we are not open over winter just because we don't have that much produce. The shop was the result of trying to think about how we could survive as a business, and still enjoy it. We didn't really want to lose our weekends to farmers markets. I mean if it's Sunday, like this, and it's a one-off, it's fine, but we couldn't commit to getting up early every Saturday or Sunday, so we thought we'd give the online shop a try. And we also supply local restaurants and we're talking with some of the community houses and partnering with them doing their box schemes because they've got schemes for lower socio-economic people really.

FY: So what kinds of people are your customers at the moment?

CF: It's mostly more affluent people, probably. And at this site, St. John's Park, it's mostly government offices, so the workers, who are public servants, buy our produce. And our friends, of course. Our stuff is actually pretty affordable, so I think that can change.

FY: What kinds of initiatives got you inspired? Is there a model?

CF: Small scale farms like us. Farms that have restricted space, use hand powered tools, and fewer power tools. So farms like Elliot Coleman's Four Season in Maine.

FY: And why are the kinds of tools you use important?

CF: We use human powered tools because we can afford them. And by not using a whole bunch of tractors, we are not compacting the ground. And also, the hand tools, we know how to fix them, and they don't require fuel or much maintenance. They don't have to be new, they last a long time.

FY: And what about St Johns community garden?

CF: Well, we are very close, on the same land, but haven't worked together much because we've been very much focusing on trying to be productive farm. So that when we set up we had some community events that kind of felt distracting to the main goal. And it's a different model, its all about the community and volunteers over there, which is a great thing. We have had the occasional volunteer work here, but it is difficult, because we are not equipped to manage people. We spend a lot of time explaining what not to pull up, which plants are which. We we've had horticulture students as volunteers because they knew what to do, and that was really wonderful.

FY: And how did your team learn?

CF: (Bridgette) My training came mainly from my internship at Gould's Natural Medicine, which operates a farm. It is staffed by naturopaths. The shop is on Liverpool street in town. So I did an internship there and then I worked there for two years … and then I did a trip to the States as well and did a whole bunch of work on small farms like these just to get experience.

FY: So how do you make decisions?

CF: So I guess we function like a collective in terms of our decision making, although we are not set up as a formal co-op. We report as a small group set up the way it would be in a not for profit Association. We would like to be a co-op but we are not there yet with being able to do the admin.

FY: And how is this site changing?

CF: Slowly, but in a lovely way . It often feels pretty dead out here. People just work here and it's not that much of a community yet. We all live in South Hobart so it's a distance from our own community. A lot of the business that happens on this site is kind of heavy. This is Crown land. Where the farm is now, it was actually kind of attached to that building which was a visitation place for adopted and fostered kids and their parents who had to be supervised. So the soil here wasn't contaminated, but it is a heavy place.

SNOW WHITE
- CHERRY
- PALE YELLOW

GREEN GRAPE
- CHERRY
- GREEN

ROSE QUARTZ
- RED CHERRY

TOMMY TOE
- CHERRY
- RED

CAMP JOY
- CHERRY
- RED

ISIS CANDY
- CHERRY
- RED

KY 1
(BUSH/BOTTLING)
- RED

LEGEND
(BUSH/BOTTLING)
- RED

LIVINGSTON'S GOLDEN BALL
- CHERRY
- YELLOW

YELLOW PEAR
- CHERRY
- YELLOW

STURICE
(LARGE, CLIMBING)
- RED

KOTLAS
(LARGE, CLIMBING)
- RED

BROAD RIPPLE CURRANT
- YELLOW CHERRY

SHAREE
- CHERRY

ORANGE ROMA
(LARGE, CLIMBING)
- ORANGE

BLACK RUSSIAN
(LARGE, CLIMBING)
- BLACK

St John's Community Garden

FY: Do you want to talk about permaculture?

Ruth   Well, because of my family connections, because I am related to Bill, people think I am an expert, but I'm not a permaculture expert. I think the basic idea of it is a really good idea. But permaculture is sometimes associated with certain demographics and you have to be careful about that. I am a bit cynical about it at times as well.

            Gardens like this should be really inclusive. I think the ideas behind permaculture are really great too and things like 'the problem is a solution' are a way of thinking laterally that is quite freeing. I'm not a permaculture fanatic by any means.

FY: How about edges?

Ruth: The idea of edges, I've always liked that. I apply it to habitat because I really like native vegetation. That's my real love in life, and salt marshes are my favourite hang out, and that's

an edge, the perfect edge habitat. But this garden is about community. So its nice to apply that in a social sense because in a way that's what this garden could be seen as brings people out of their silos and brings them together.

FY: Well we've been thinking about that because a lot of the people we've been talking to through this project see themselves as part of a critical art scene in Hobart. And a scene like that has edges too, and in paying attention to those, or making them more visible we can think about exclusion and inclusion and that's always interesting in the arts. How do you keep working at those edges so that people feel welcome so that it's not the same old thing all the time?

Ruth: You have to be careful of 'group think', because it's easy to fall into that. We have lots of communities here and different types of people. The ex-minister is one of the main gardeners. We lease the space from the Anglican Church. And we have to pay rent, and insurance and everything else. The Church owns the only bit of freehold land in this area. But other than that, the garden is not at all churchy. We have a whole mix of people.

            This garden is the back yard of the church

rectory. The church was issued a fire abate-
ment notice because it was just full of weeds.
They were considering turning it into a car
park for the state government offices nearby.

You couldn't even see the boundary fences for
weeds. I used to look over the fence and think
'this is like a secret garden', because you could
just see the trees popping up through the
weeds. And I thought 'I would love to get in
here'. And I got some friends together and we
started. The landlord put a fence in, to sepa-
rate the orchard from the house, and they said
'you can have it for six months – if you don't
get it in hand, we'll have it back.' That was
five years ago. And then we put all the beds
in, and that's a herb spiral there. Different
people have done different things. There was
a lady working in mental health and she said
these spirals are really good for people who
feel stressed to walk around and around. And
she really wanted to do that. So off she went.

We've got the chooks happening, and we put
the raspberries in here. This is an original
heritage chook pen, and we just fixed it up.
When we saw photos from the 1930s there
was a whole row of these here, because this
was a government farm and they used to
breed chooks to get chooks that laid all year.
So we've kept it. The Karen-Burmese have
space here to keep a flock of chooks. They
collect the eggs and eat the roosters. They sell
the eggs, to get money to buy the chook food.

And this wormwood. Apparently it's a re-
ally good insecticide. So the idea is that we
make hedge and then we clip it and then put
it inside their nest boxes to keep the chooks
healthy. And next to them we have a green
crop and the chooks can eat all of that and
then we will swap it over.

FY: So have you done this before, a community
          garden?

Ruth: Well I'm drawn to it. I've done other com-
          munity things, not a garden, but I've done a
          nursery that's still going. My background is
          the natural sciences. I was a librarian and I've
          just gone back to doing that. I found it boring
          when I was younger but it's a handy job when
          you're older.

          But I like being outdoors. I was on the com-
          mittee, but have handed over my position to
          others. I feel like it's time to bow out and just
          come and poke around in the garden rather
          than be the one responsible for organising
          it. I set it up because I thought I've got to do
          something to get to know the neighbours. I
          was in a new house and a new suburb – and I
          started this community group, which worked
          on this garden. And I ended up getting mar-
          ried to one of the gardeners. So there you go.

FY: How did you learn to garden?

Ruth: I just picked things up. I learned from my

mother and my grandmother more than my father probably. You know, they were all very Tasmanian, including Dad, which means that they know the climate, and they've just always had big back yards where you had some chooks and the veggie garden and some fruit trees. You know that's really not so common anymore, even in Hobart. Developers move in, and cover all the surfaces.… I think people are tired of screens and virtual living, people want to get back to real living and real skills.

We have become so separate from where our food comes from. But generations need to work together.
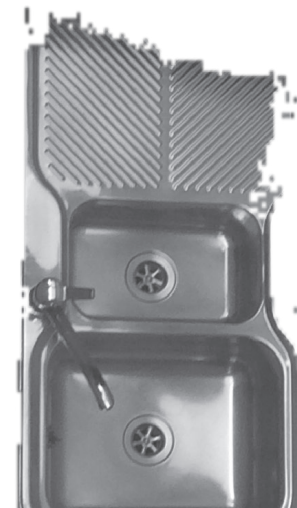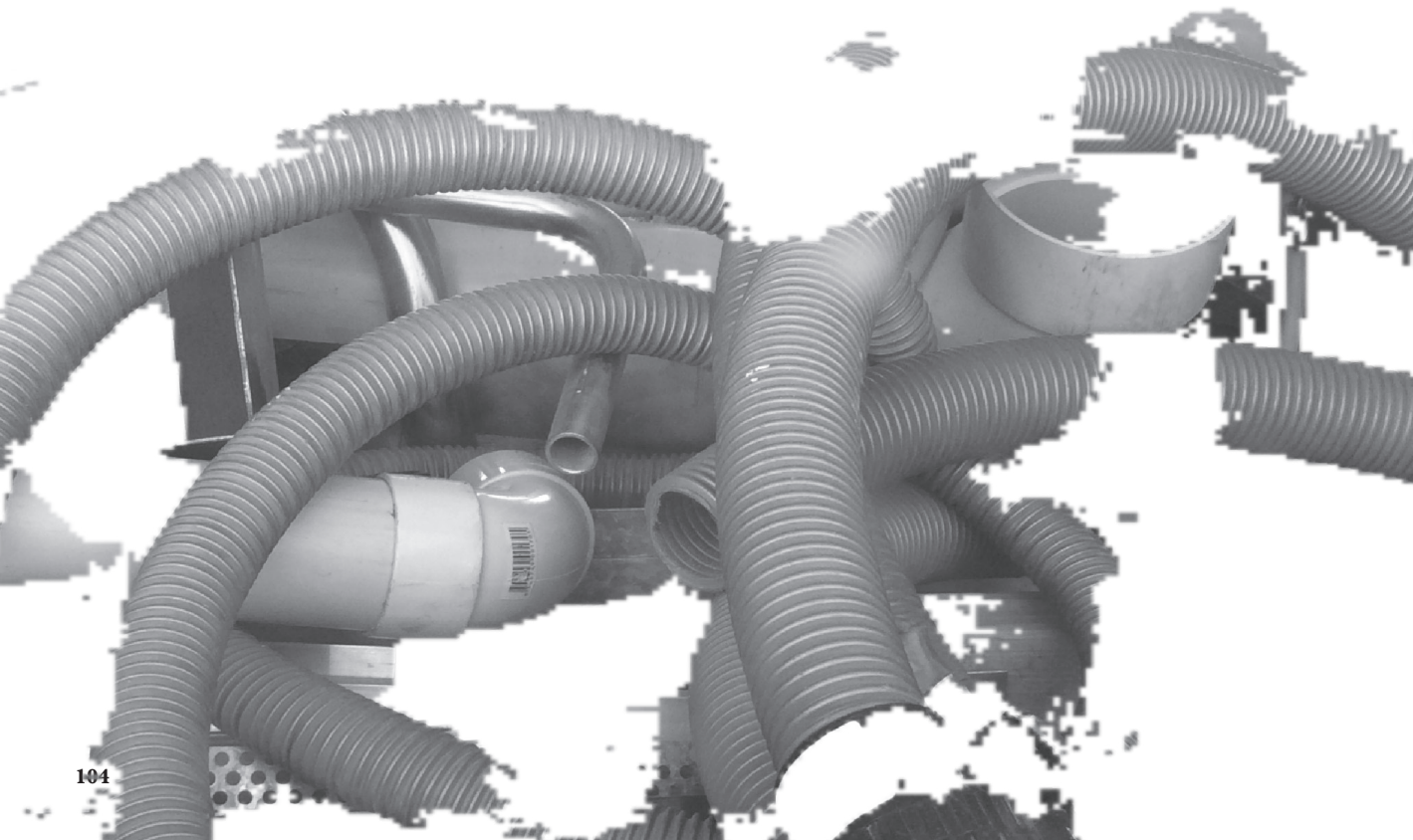
Our Facebook page was taken on my one of our young members. And we had the best turn out we've had- it worked. And we didn't have to do anything to make it work. It can be used as a tool. But I think you also need to sit down and have a cup of tea and check in. That's the best thing. Nothing can quite replace that.
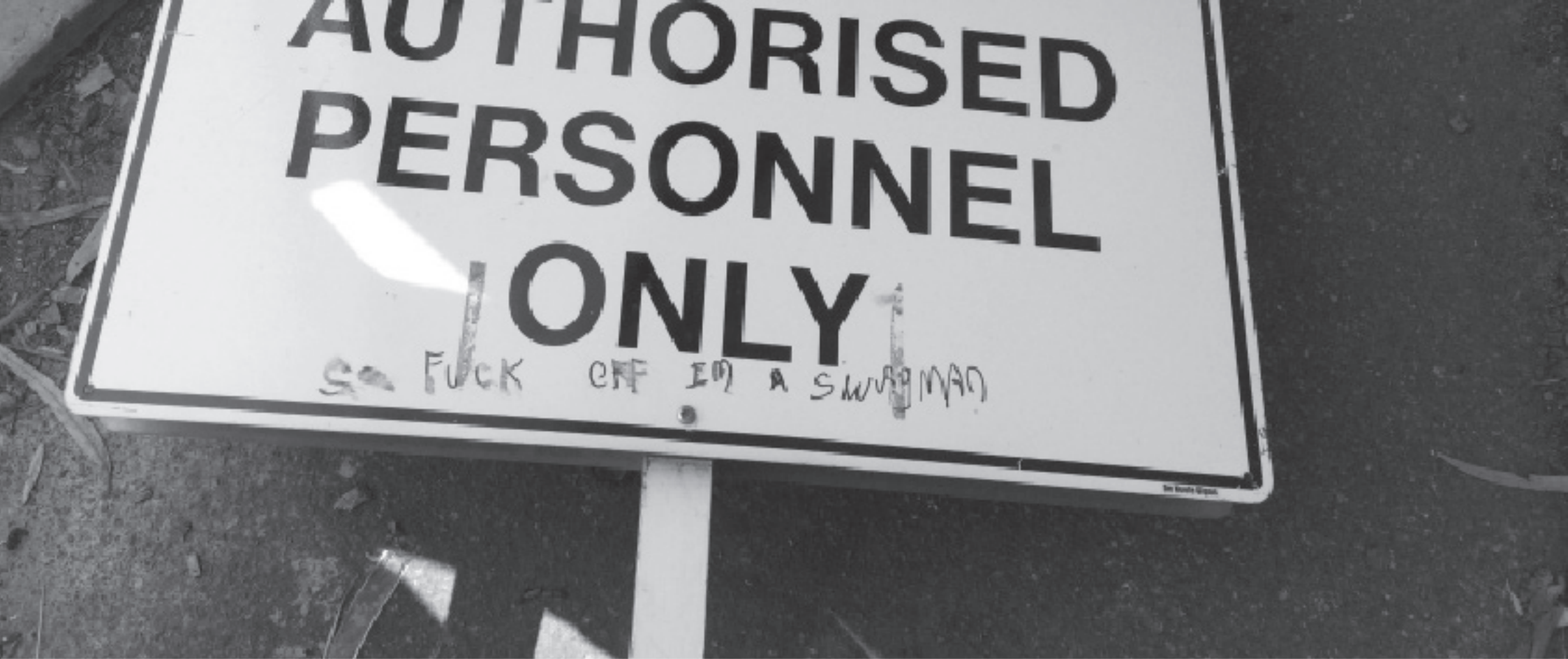
Christopher and Jason using public spaces
for private things
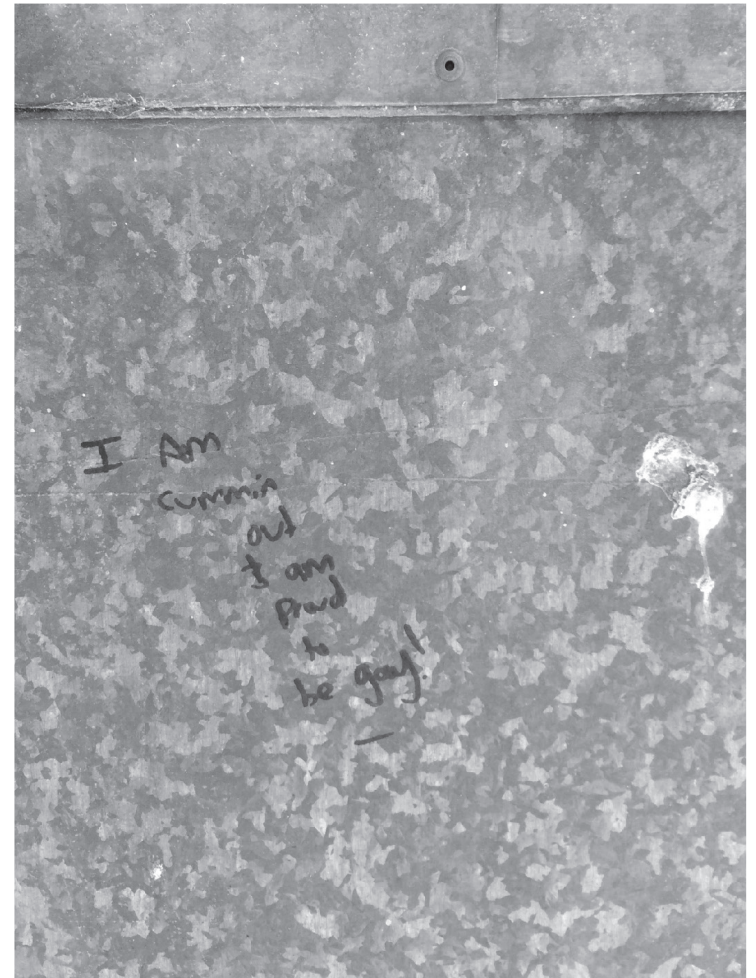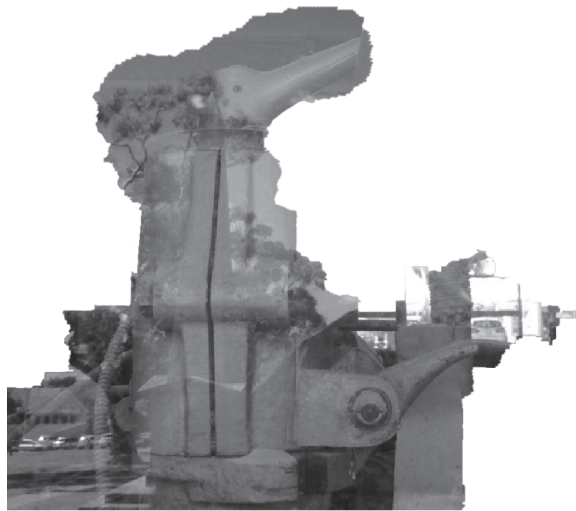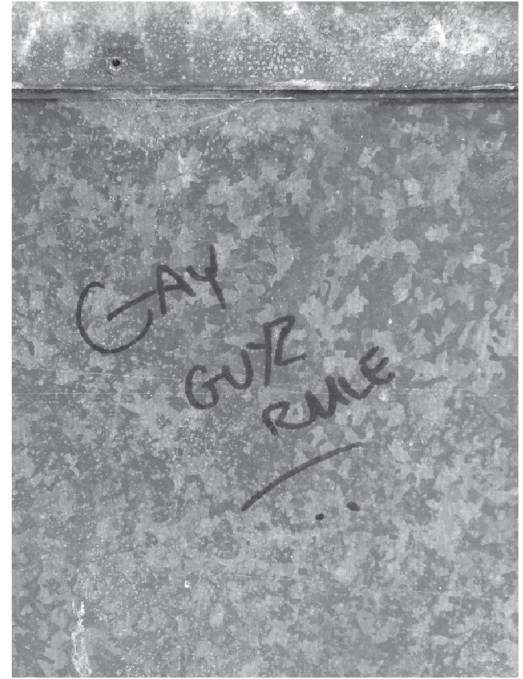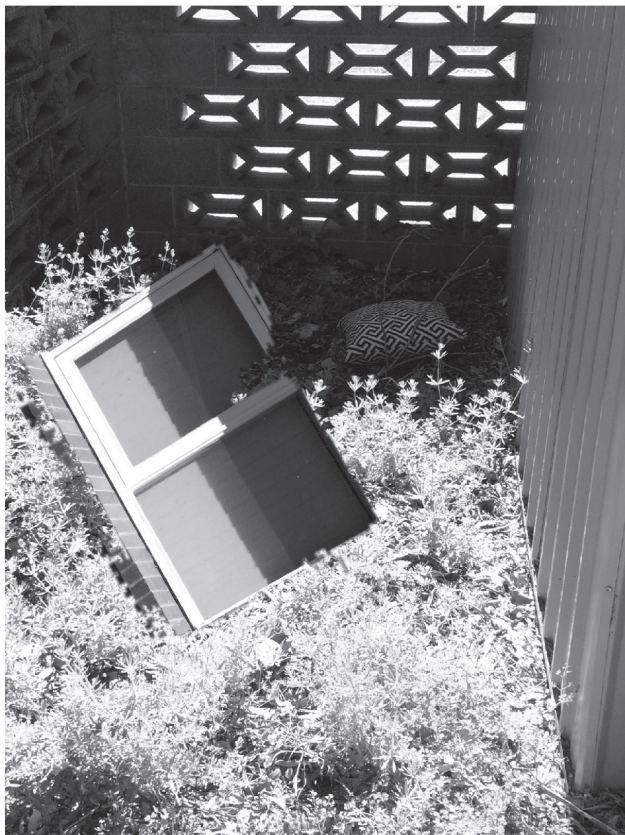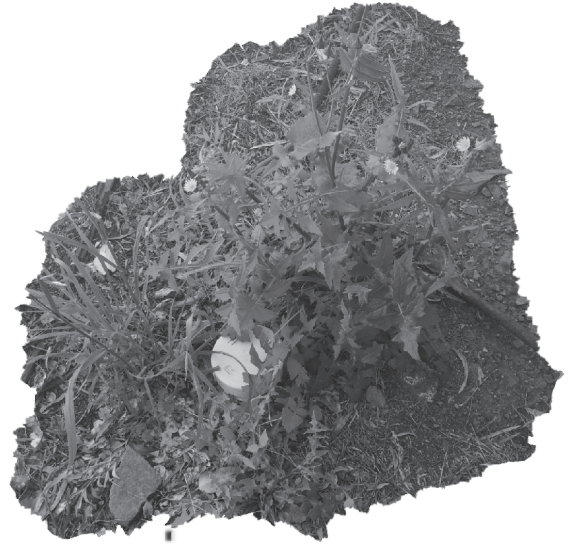
EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY POINT

Public Health Laboratories
Analytical Services Tasmania
Parks, Water, Environment
Home Care South
Home Maintenance
Lifting Service
Bowls Club
Alzheimer's Australia
Mobile SNOEZEL Room
Strictly no PARKING
Family Resource Centre
Men's SHED
Doorways to Parenting Centre
Private Property
TOW AWAY AREA
Rosary Gardens
NO Money, keep on Premise
Danger Glass
No Admittance

Tasmanian Autism
Diagnostic Service
THE Mall
Voechouse Building
Winsfield Building
Carruthers Building
Gellibrown Building
Equipment &
Technology Library
Concealed Entrance

more joy - joy please.

WHO OWNS YOUR LOCAL COLES CAR-PARK?

* EX-CERPTS FROM WATCH THIS SPACE

* * *

THE TABLE OF BULLSHIT
THE TABLE OF KNOWLEDGE
THE TABLE OF HONESTY

RESEARCH TRANSLATION ≈

OPEN TO ANYTHING NOTICING EVERYTHING

SPECIAL PERSON
GOTTA PARK
RIGHT HERE
AWAY YA GO

CARE

CARE

CARE

SLOW DOWN

FRESH AIR ~

HOLDING SPACE
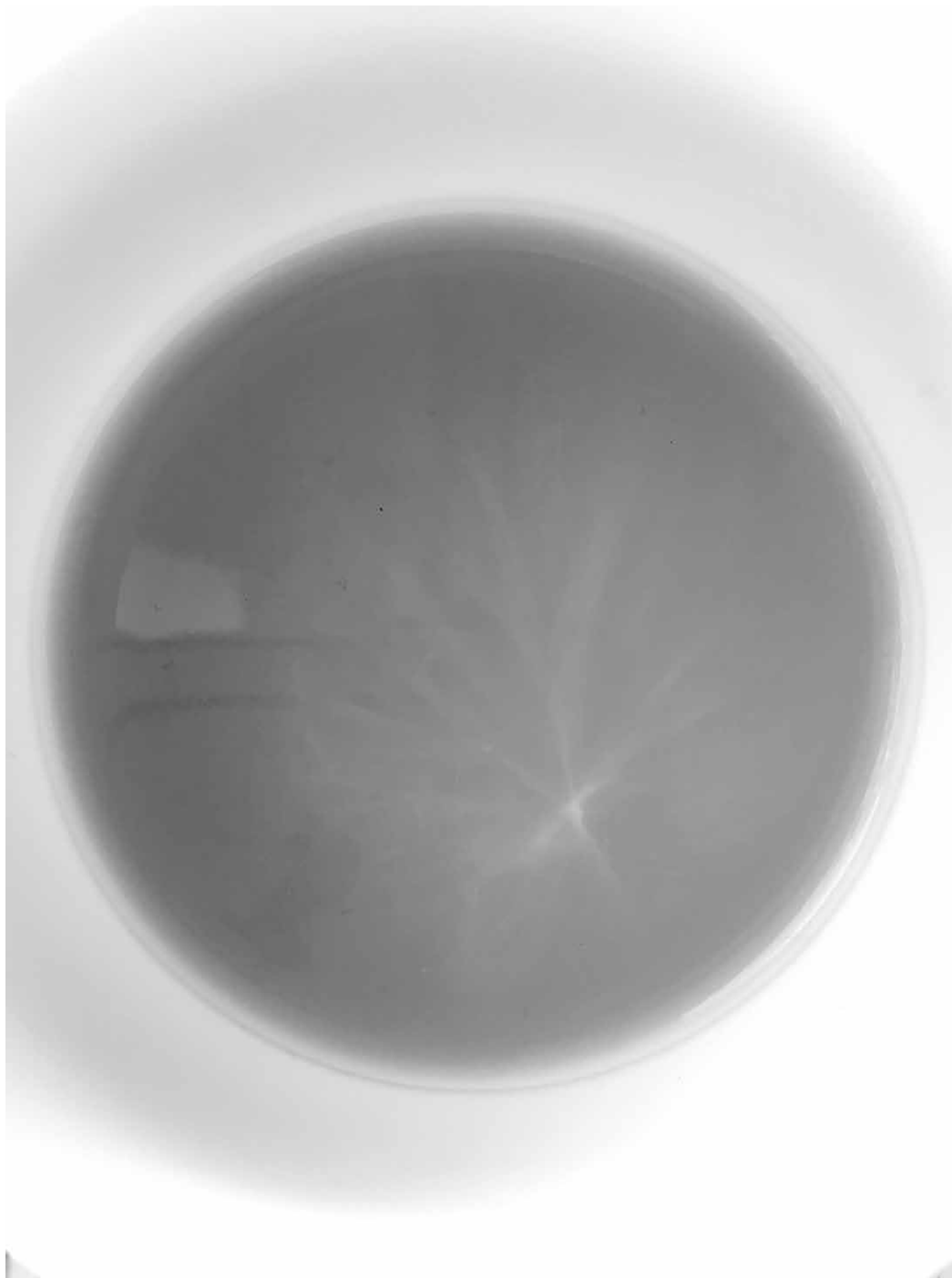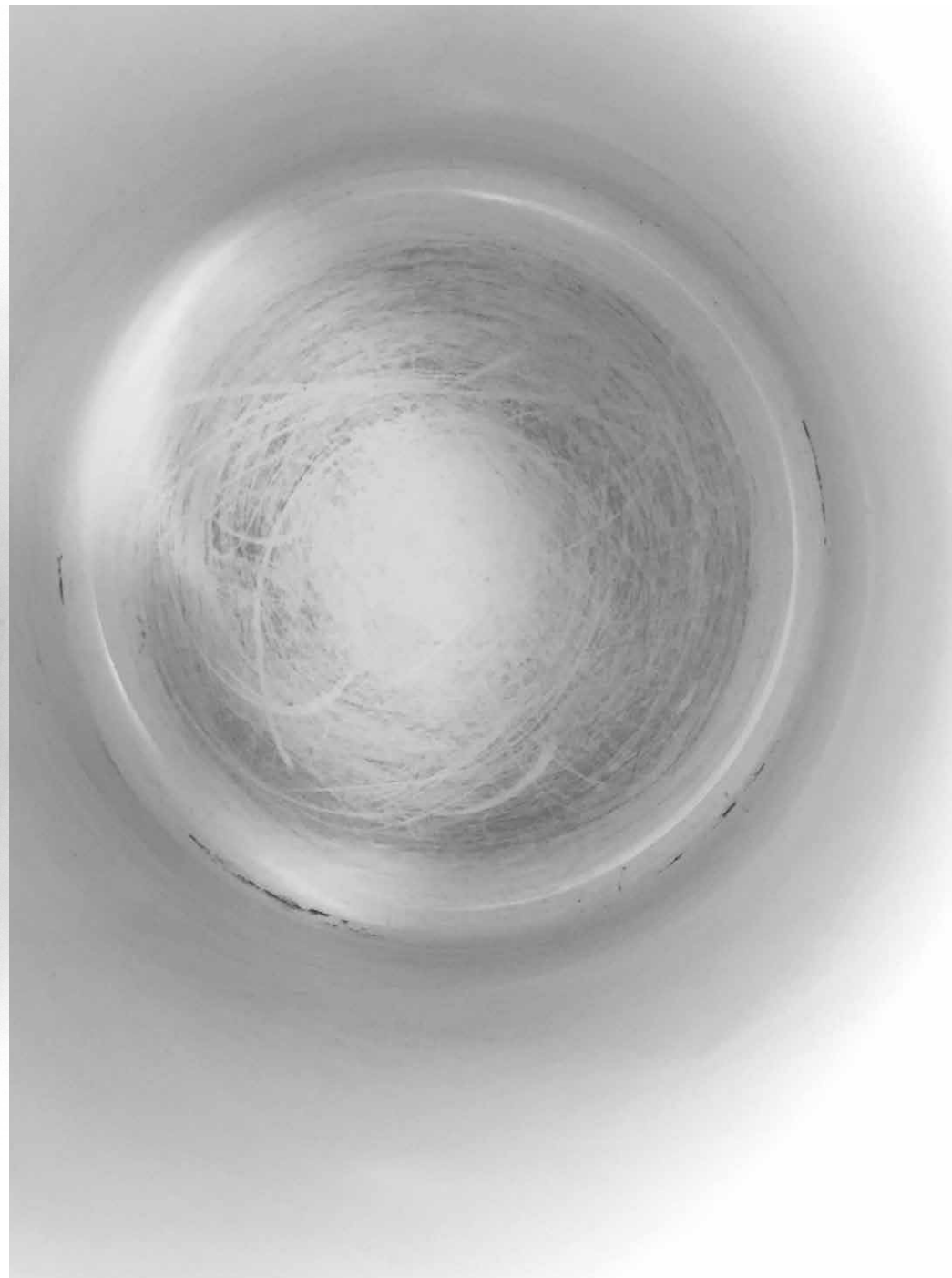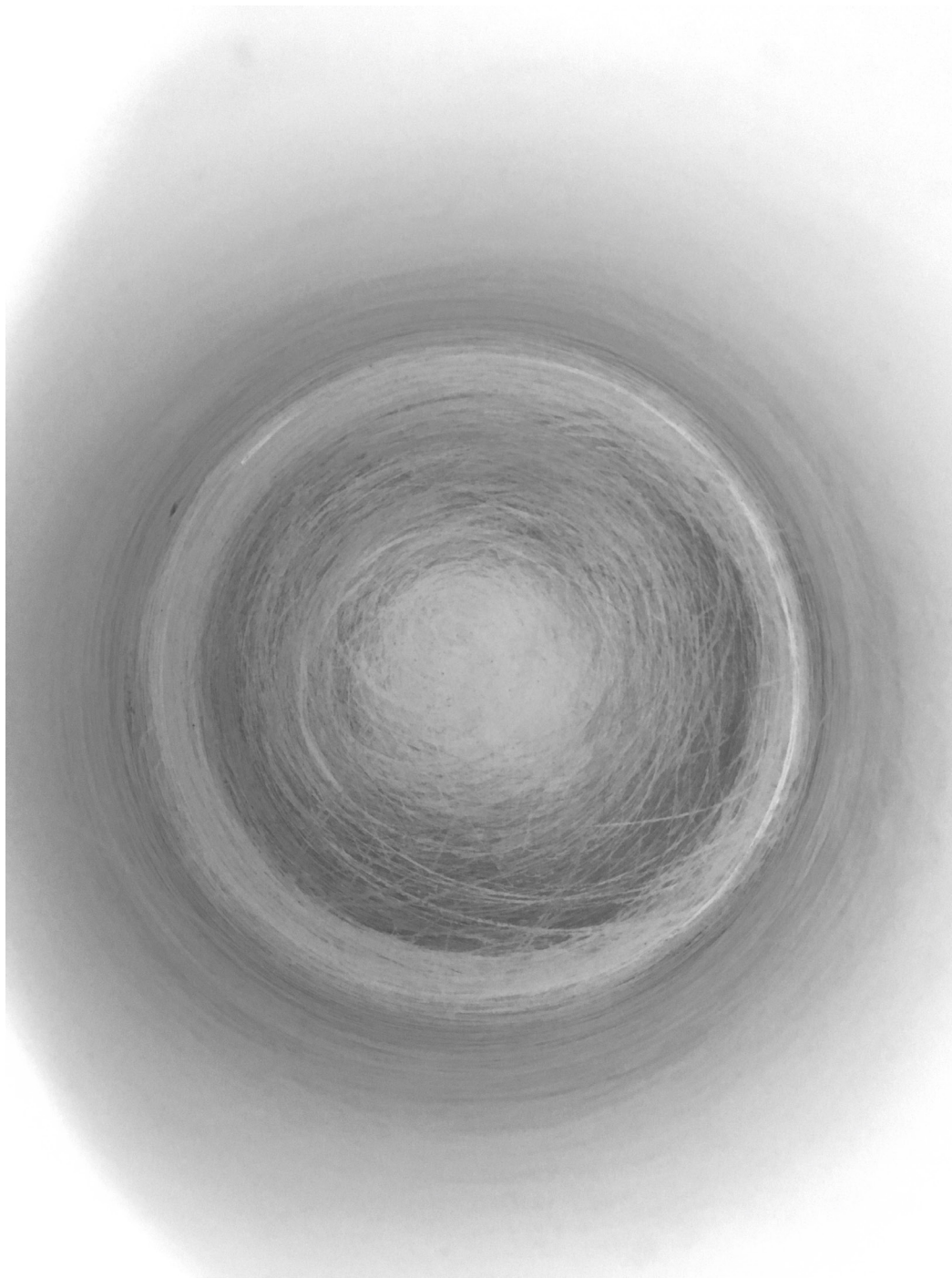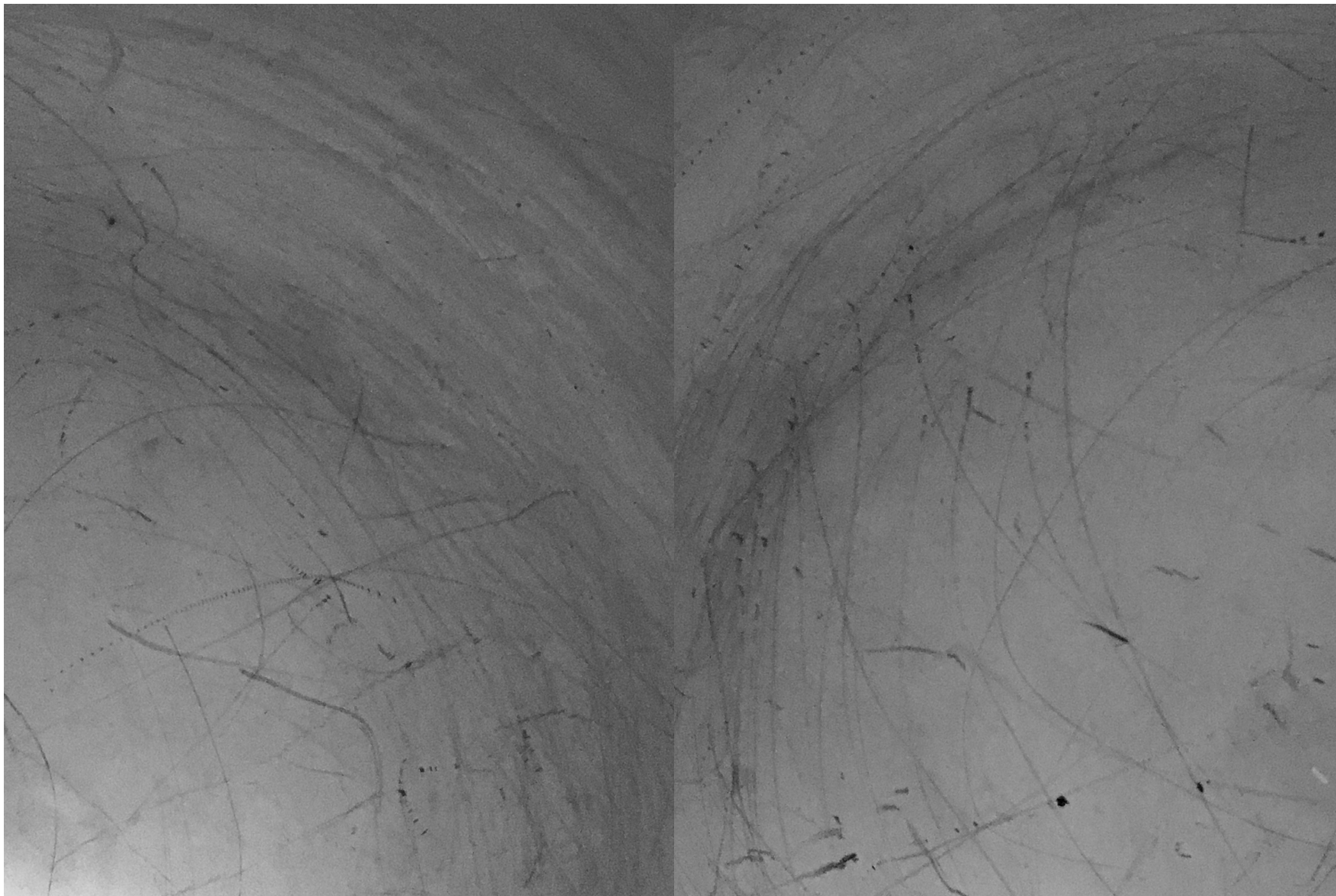
A
RESIDEN-
CY
IN 2050

The Rock Agency History of Art

We propose a residency at Frontyard in 2050 to look back at our collective role in mainly manly Western art and thus redress the misconception that sees many great mainly man artists create sculptural, painterly and installation masterpieces from our forms. The line goes from Greece's friezes to the last century dud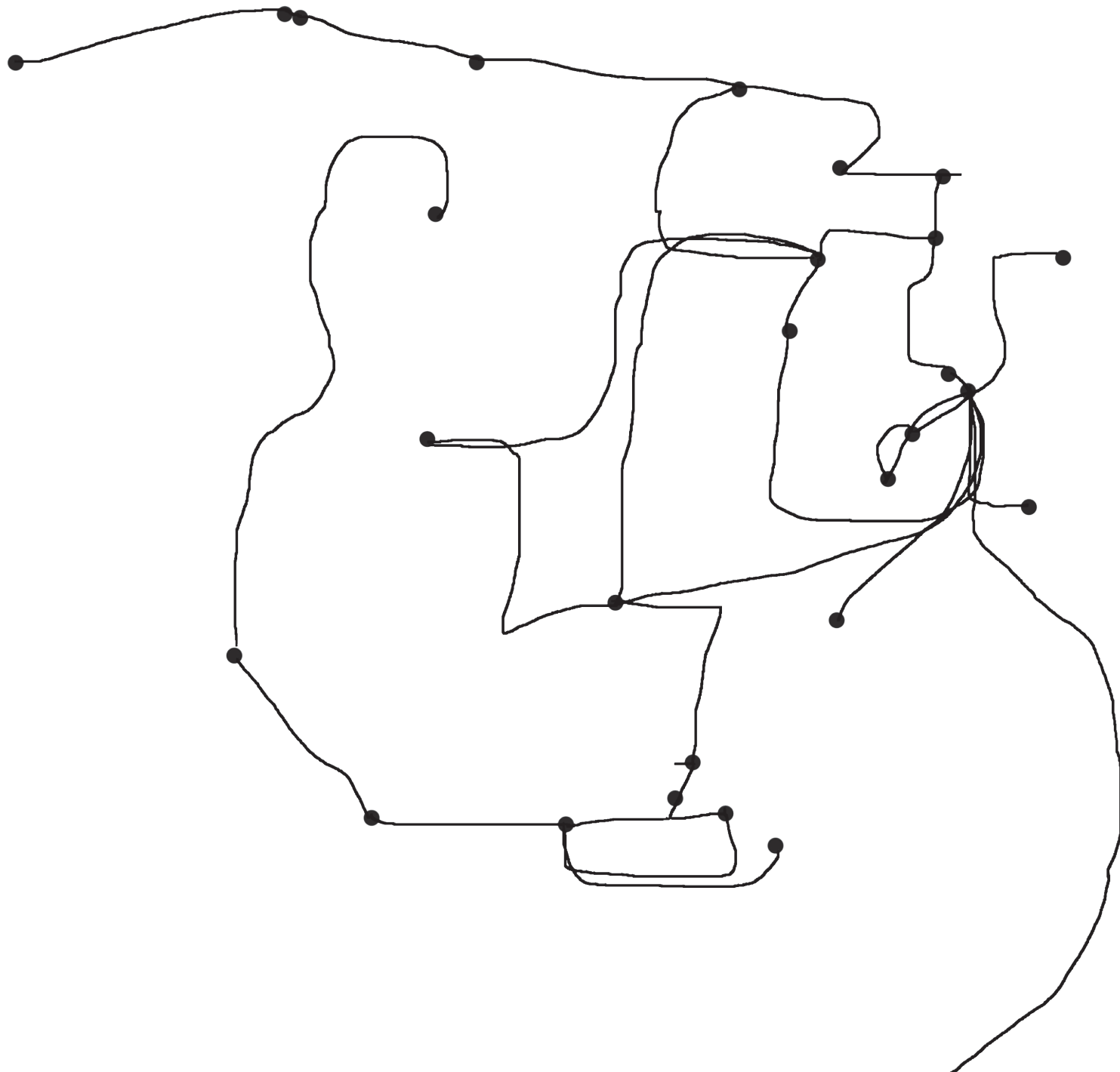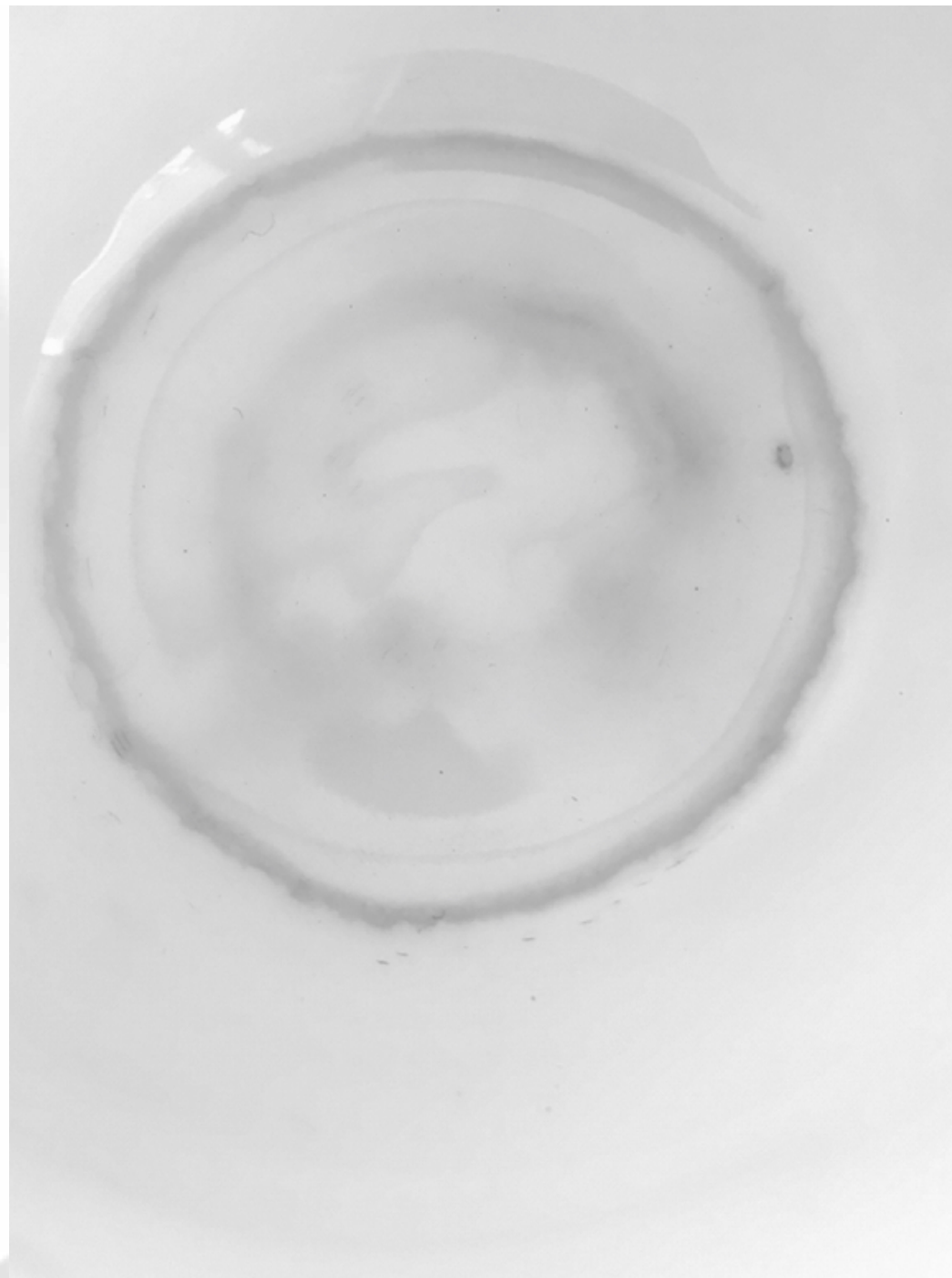es who misplaced and replaced rocks and pebbles. As we see it, it was only since Guerrilla Rocks at Frontyard in 2017 that our role as rocks in shaping the imaginary of mainly manly Western art has been recognised. In this residency, we will return to the 2017 and 2018 post-relational interventions such as: 'take me for a walk', 'one hundred days, one hundred rubbings' and 'if we had hands, we WOULD make signs', designed to explore the (re)emergence of rock agency.

We will zoom back in time, in giant leaps, revisiting Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* (did you know for instance that rocks refused to collaborate and decided to sink in the lake as a disappearing protest?), Christo's *Wrapped Coast* (being left in dark, feeling like fossilised fungi), Michelangelo's *David* (it has been pointed out that Michelangelo only liberated the masterpiece already present in the rock, and we acknowledge his wisdom), and the Ancient Greek men who looted our ancestral rock homes to steal marble for their temples. The Rock Agency Art History will reveal how us, the rocks, formed and terraformed what humans believe is mainly manly western art.
....

Ilaria and momo doto
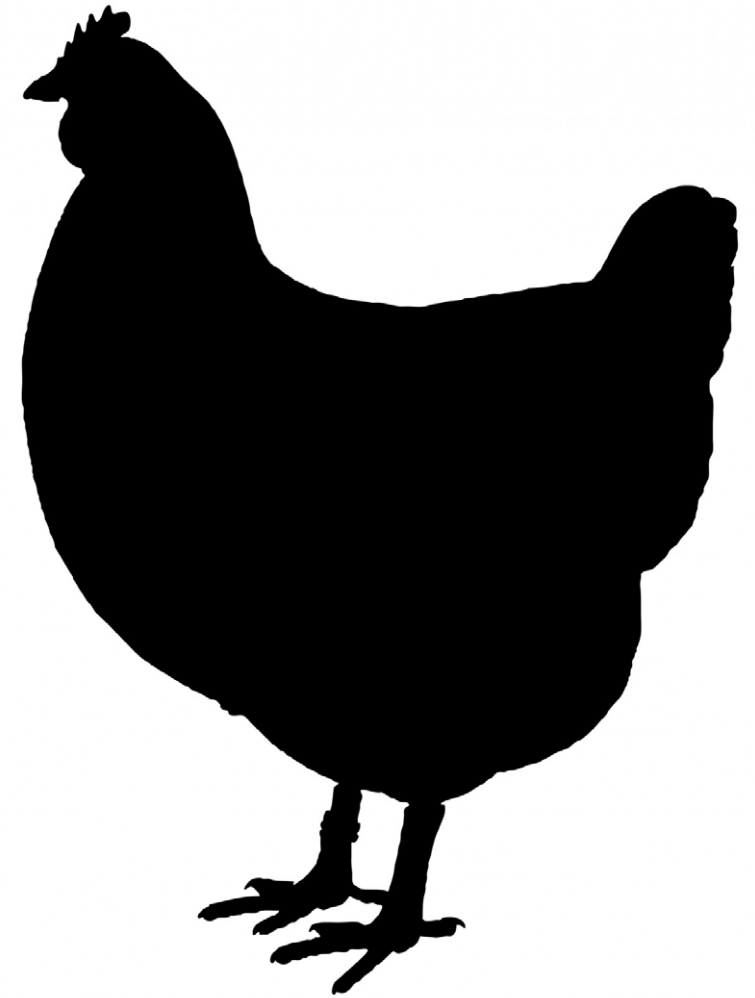
A third party gets involved.

WE GAVE 2 SHORT INTERVIEWS TO CHICKENS/ROCKS
THEN UTILISED A MACHINE TRANSLATION SERVICE:

"You had to be easy to break."

Speaker 1: 00:01   Hates. You can.
Speaker 2: 00:06   How do you feel about interspecies love.
Speaker 3: 00:13   How do you feel. What's happening. Any
Speaker 4: 00:26   news. Know feeling talkative this morning. At. He's the boss.
Speaker 1: 00:56   Not me but a. What do I do when you were talk to me. Maybe be the.
Speaker 5: 03:17   Would you like to come and do a residency for you. Regis.
Speaker 6: 04:08   Have you had to be easy to break.

QUESTIONS FOR CHICKENS:
STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

"They're happier when there's a rooster."

[address the burning issues directly] How do you feel about interspecies love?
[check in on how they're doing today] How do you feel?
[discussion of current affairs, news, gossip is always a good ice breaker] What's happening? Any news?
[learn the local language/dialect, don't colonise with your own] Bok Bok
[Understand the politics of the place you're in] Who's the boss?
[Offer soft words of encouragement] Are you not feeling talkative this morning?
[Make them feel like you're an ally] Nothin' here but us chickens
[Tell them how their behaviour affects you] What do I do when you won't talk to me?
[Have an exit strategy] Maybe I'll have better luck with the rocks.

"You've been gathered here for a purpose hitherto un-known."

Hello rocks.
You've been gathered here for a purpose hitherto un-known.
Can you tell me what your intent is?
How long have you been here?
Some of you are larger than others... does this have an impact on your egos?
You seem quite supportive of one another.
Would you like to come and do a residency at Frontyard?
How about you?
Can you tell me about the rock as a site of protest?
Have you ever been used to break a window?
Have you ever been arrested for standing up for what you believe in?
They're some pretty strong feelings.

CRITIQUE OF THE ABOVE CONVERSATION:
This doesn't address time.
How do you maintain energy for an action that lasts mil-lions of years?
What if you don't get on with your neighbour?
Do you always want to assemble?
Our conversation means nothing in the timescales we're talking about.
I will be a rock one day. Julia is a fossil.
How many of me is in you?
Can I hold you?
Where to leave your body?

A RECIPE FOR DANDELI-ON TEA

Dandelion root tea works to stimulate appetite, aid digestion
and decolonise the mind and body.
It can be brewed from fresh roots on your stovetop.

1. Dig up as much of a dandelion plant as you can get with a
    deep spade or a dandelion fork.
    The plant's taproot is quite long and twisted, so it can take
    some effort to unearth the entire plant.

2. Separate the root from the leaves, stems and flowers, and
    rinse the root vigorously under cool running water.
    Save the leaves for another use, if desired.

3. Bring 1 litre of water to boil in a saucepan.

4. Chop dandelion root coarsely.
    Add 2 teaspoons of the chopped root to the saucepan,
    cover the pan and lower the heat.
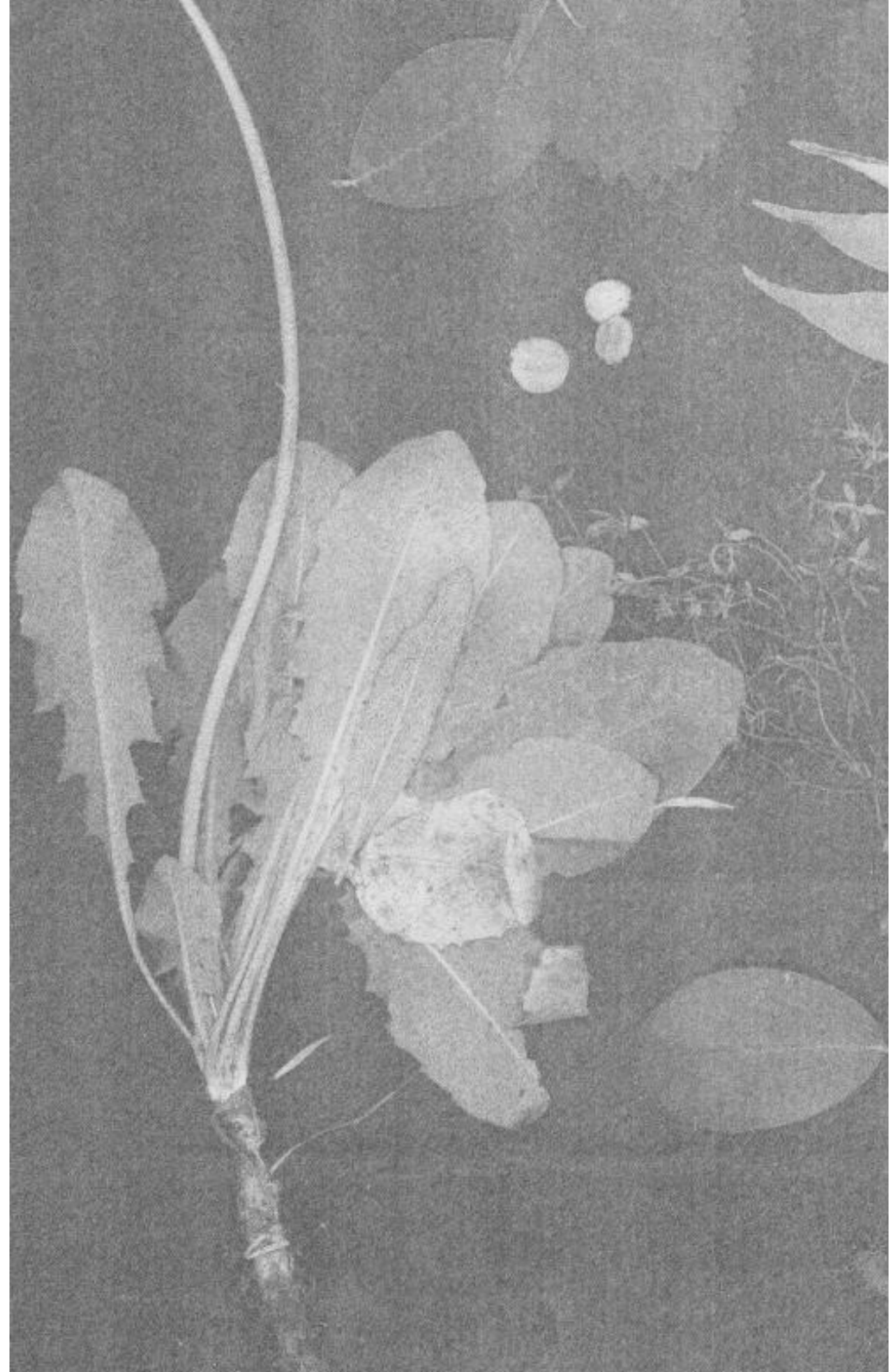
5. Simmer the dandelion root in the covered saucepan for about 1 minute.

6. Remove the pan from the heat. Leave the dandelion root to steep in the covered pan for 40 minutes.

7. Set a strainer over a teapot, and pour the infused liquid into the pot. Discard the root pieces.

We check in with each other using spoons
(see 'Spoon Theory' in our Glossary).

Another way of accouting for energy and human capacity
might be to look at the use of emoticons in conversations.
The following pages document Frontyard energy levels on
#SLACK based on emoticon use over time.
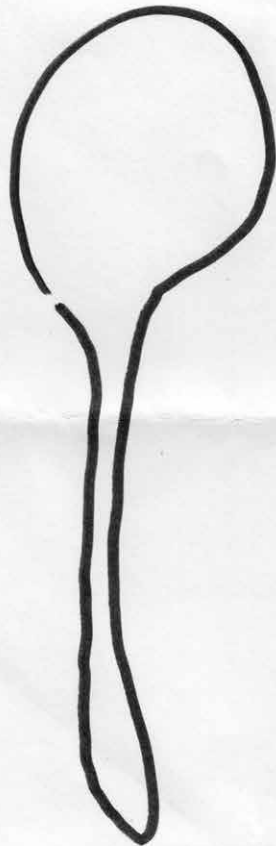
SPOON
THEORY
IS
WIDELY
USED
IN
CANBERRA.

Public and Private

Understand where your members have conversations, and where messages are most commonly read. Most messages will have multiple readers.

Where people are reading   **Where messages are sent**

100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

Oct 7 2017 | Oct 9 2017 | Oct 11 2017 | Oct 13 2017 | Oct 15 2017 | Oct 17 2017 | Oct 19 2017 | Oct 21 2017 | Oct 23 2017 | Oct 25 2017 | Oct 27 2017 | Oct 29 2017 | Oct 31 2017 | Nov 2 2017

● % in Public Channels   ● % in Private Channels   ● % in Direct Messages

In the last 30 days:
Messages sent in public channels: 53% / **Messages sent in private channels**: 18% / **Messages sent in DMs**: 30%

Public and Private

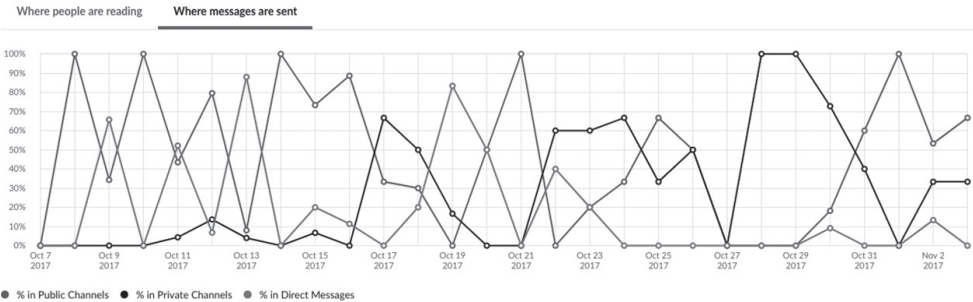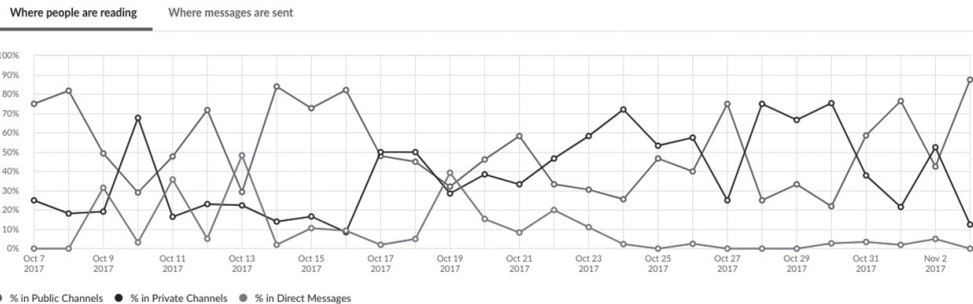Understand where your members have conversations, and where messages are most commonly read. Most messages will have multiple readers.

Where people are reading   Where messages are sent

100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

Oct 7 2017 | Oct 9 2017 | Oct 11 2017 | Oct 13 2017 | Oct 15 2017 | Oct 17 2017 | Oct 19 2017 | Oct 21 2017 | Oct 23 2017 | Oct 25 2017 | Oct 27 2017 | Oct 29 2017 | Oct 31 2017 | Nov 2 2017

● % in Public Channels   ● % in Private Channels   ● % in Direct Messages

In the last 30 days:
Messages read in public channels: 54% / **Messages read in private channels**: 33% / **Messages read in DMs**: 13%

160

```
2017-04-09  9:56 in #general: 😀
2017-04-10  9:45 in #tech-discussions: ⚽
2017-04-19 15:45 in #general: 🤍
2017-04-20 11:59 in #general: :hugging_face:
2017-04-20 22:35 in #general: 🫤
2017-04-30 21:38 in #most17: 🤍🤍
2017-05-01 20:33 in #general: 💯
2017-05-02 14:52 in #library: :thinking_face:
2017-05-03  8:49 in #general: 👋:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-03 16:34 in #general: 👋:skin-tone-2:👋:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-03 22:22 in #general: 👍:skin-tone-2:👍:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-04 11:12 in #general: 🤞
2017-05-04 17:00 in #general: 😃😄👍
2017-05-08 10:48 in #general: 👍
2017-05-08 11:29 in #general: 👍
2017-05-11 10:45 in #general: 👋👋
2017-05-11 12:39 in #most17: 👍
2017-05-11 13:09 in #most17: 👍:skin-tone-2:👍:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-11 13:15 in #general: 😊
2017-05-12 11:21 in #general: 🖤
2017-05-12 11:48 in #general: 👋:skin-tone-2:👋:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-16 10:22 in #most17: 🧠
2017-05-16 15:32 in #most17: :hugging_face:
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2017-05-16 16:44 in #general: 👍:thinking_face:
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2017-05-17 12:55 in #most17: 👌
2017-05-18  9:45 in #general: 👍
2017-05-18 16:07 in #general: 👌
2017-05-18 16:14 in #most17: 👌
2017-05-18 16:55 in #general: 👍👍
2017-05-18 16:55 in #general: :weight_lifter::skin-tone-2:
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2017-05-21 20:02 in #most17: 🤍🤍🤍:snowman_without_snow:
2017-05-21 23:08 in #most17: 💯😊
2017-05-22 11:04 in #general: 👍:skin-tone-2:👍:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-22 11:32 in #general: 🙏:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-23 15:01 in #most17: 👌
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2017-05-23 20:19 in #tech-discussions: 👍:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-23 20:32 in #tech-discussions: 🔓
2017-05-23 21:23 in #general: 🤍👀👀🤍
2017-05-25 9:08 in #general: 👍:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-25 13:43 in #general: 🎊🖤
2017-05-28 15:30 in #general: 🤍
2017-05-28 16:46 in #general: ✅
2017-05-28 19:33 in #general: 🔥
2017-05-31 20:51 in #general: 👋:skin-tone-2:
2017-05-31 23:00 in #general: 👋:skin-tone-2:
2017-06-01 8:24 in #general: 🌞🙂
2017-06-04 18:53 in #general: 👍
2017-06-07 10:34 in #general: 👍
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2017-07-17 13:24 in #residencies: 👍
2017-07-17 16:38 in #general: 🤍🖤🤍🎥🎥
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2017-07-17 22:35 in #crunchycinema: 😉
2017-07-17 23:11 in #garden: 👍🐛🐌
2017-07-19 14:05 in #garden: 😎
2017-07-21 21:14 in #crunchycinema: 👍
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2017-08-09 6:26 in #general: 🔧
2017-08-09 9:06 in #general: 🎉
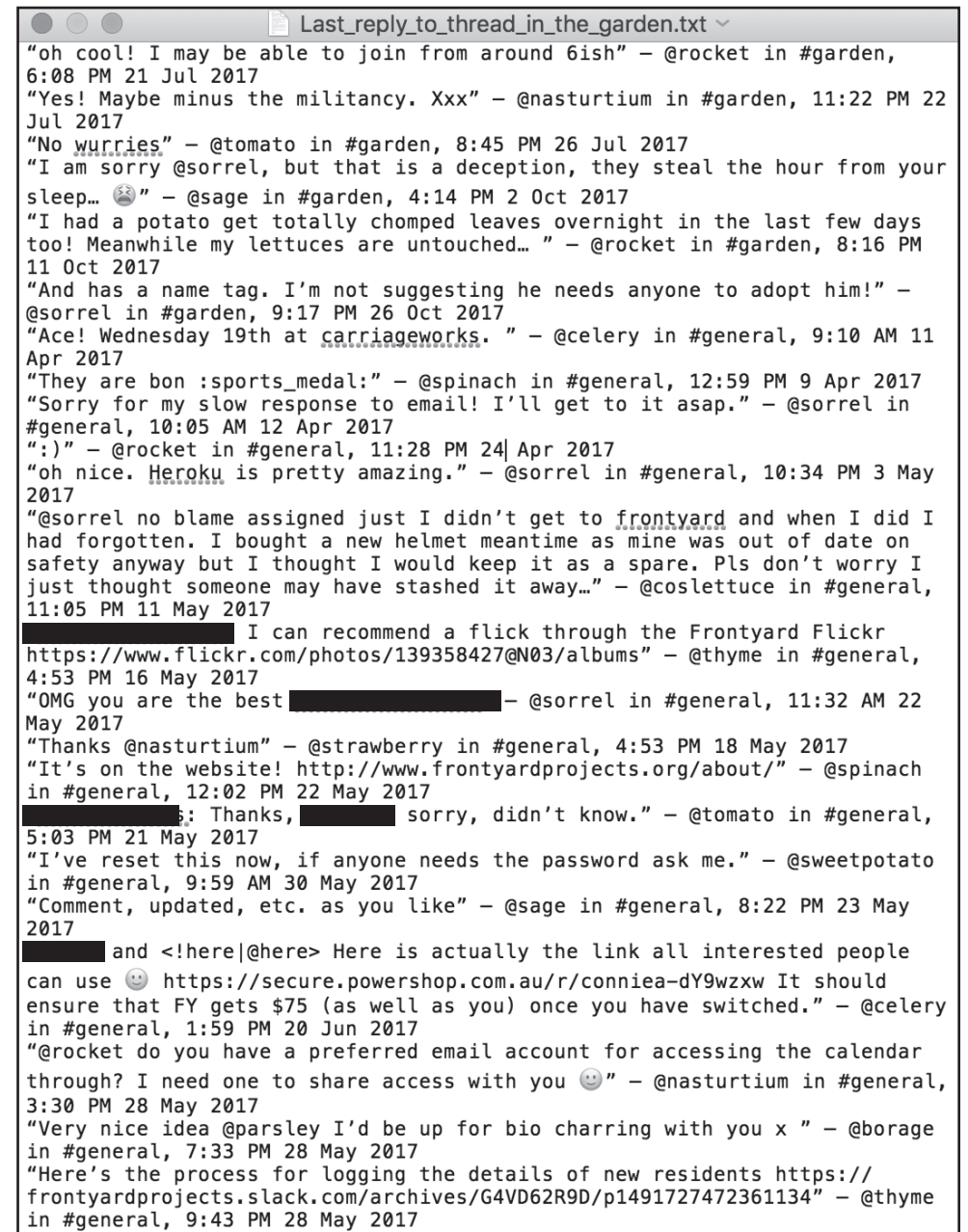2017-08-10 13:35 in #crunchycinema: 👍:skin-tone-2:

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2017-10-11 11:22 in #garden: 🌱🌱🌱😊😊👍
2017-10-12 10:20 in #general: 🚗🚗
2017-10-12 14:41 in #general: 👍
2017-10-12 16:17 in #general: 👍:skin-tone-2:
2017-10-12 16:22 in #general: 👍:skin-tone-2:👍:skin-tone-2:
2017-10-13 23:31 in #volume2017: 🦊🦊🍰
2017-10-14 13:51 in #volume2017: 👍
2017-10-15 14:09 in #volume2017: 💪🤍🌱🌱
2017-10-16 12:23 in #general: 👏:skin-tone-2:👏:skin-tone-2:👍👍👍
2017-10-16 15:50 in #general: 💯💯

HOW TO EXIT A CONVERSATION

We neglected to imagine how we might exit these conversations.

One possible method might be found in the way that we currently exit our online conversations.

What follows is a list of exits made from conversations in #SLACK.

```
● ● ●              📄 Last_reply_to_thread_in_the_garden.txt  ⌄
"oh cool! I may be able to join from around 6ish" — @rocket in #garden,
6:08 PM 21 Jul 2017
"Yes! Maybe minus the militancy. Xxx" — @nasturtium in #garden, 11:22 PM 22
Jul 2017
"No wurries" — @tomato in #garden, 8:45 PM 26 Jul 2017
"I am sorry @sorrel, but that is a deception, they steal the hour from your
sleep… 😩" — @sage in #garden, 4:14 PM 2 Oct 2017
"I had a potato get totally chomped leaves overnight in the last few days
too! Meanwhile my lettuces are untouched… " — @rocket in #garden, 8:16 PM
11 Oct 2017
"And has a name tag. I'm not suggesting he needs anyone to adopt him!" —
@sorrel in #garden, 9:17 PM 26 Oct 2017
"Ace! Wednesday 19th at carriageworks. " — @celery in #general, 9:10 AM 11
Apr 2017
"They are bon :sports_medal:" — @spinach in #general, 12:59 PM 9 Apr 2017
"Sorry for my slow response to email! I'll get to it asap." — @sorrel in
#general, 10:05 AM 12 Apr 2017
":)" — @rocket in #general, 11:28 PM 24| Apr 2017
"oh nice. Heroku is pretty amazing." — @sorrel in #general, 10:34 PM 3 May
2017
"@sorrel no blame assigned just I didn't get to frontyard and when I did I
had forgotten. I bought a new helmet meantime as mine was out of date on
safety anyway but I thought I would keep it as a spare. Pls don't worry I
just thought someone may have stashed it away…" — @coslettuce in #general,
11:05 PM 11 May 2017
                 ████████     I can recommend a flick through the Frontyard Flickr
https://www.flickr.com/photos/139358427@N03/albums" — @thyme in #general,
4:53 PM 16 May 2017
"OMG you are the best ████████████████████— @sorrel in #general, 11:32 AM 22
May 2017
"Thanks @nasturtium" — @strawberry in #general, 4:53 PM 18 May 2017
"It's on the website! http://www.frontyardprojects.org/about/" — @spinach
in #general, 12:02 PM 22 May 2017
███████████: Thanks, ████████ sorry, didn't know." — @tomato in #general,
5:03 PM 21 May 2017
"I've reset this now, if anyone needs the password ask me." — @sweetpotato
in #general, 9:59 AM 30 May 2017
"Comment, updated, etc. as you like" — @sage in #general, 8:22 PM 23 May
2017
████████ and <!here|@here> Here is actually the link all interested people
can use ☺ https://secure.powershop.com.au/r/conniea-dY9wzxw It should
ensure that FY gets $75 (as well as you) once you have switched." — @celery
in #general, 1:59 PM 20 Jun 2017
"@rocket do you have a preferred email account for accessing the calendar
through? I need one to share access with you ☺" — @nasturtium in #general,
3:30 PM 28 May 2017
"Very nice idea @parsley I'd be up for bio charring with you x " — @borage
in #general, 7:33 PM 28 May 2017
"Here's the process for logging the details of new residents https://
frontyardprojects.slack.com/archives/G4VD62R9D/p1491727472361134" — @thyme
in #general, 9:43 PM 28 May 2017
```

"Here's the process for logging the details of new residents https://frontyardprojects.slack.com/archives/G4VD62R9D/p1491727472361134" — @thyme in #general, 9:43 PM 28 May 2017

"21st I should put that in the internal cal" — @sorrel in #general, 10:29 AM 1 Jun 2017

"No woz!" — @rocket in #general, 4:01 PM 1 Jun 2017

"Thank you @nasturtium " — @sweetpotato in #general, 9:29 AM 9 Jun 2017

"@thyme Great! Sorry ▓▓, have been offline for a while. Will have a closer look soon and let you know my thoughts. Cheers" — @sorrel in #general, 1:53 PM 20 Jun 2017

"Awesome, it would be great to meet you if you could :)" — @borage in #general, 6:40 PM 25 Jun 2017

"@silverbeet I like our retreat album :)" — @silverbeet in #general, 9:56 AM 28 Jun 2017

"How is this general?" — @rosemary in #general, 12:40 AM 5 Jul 2017

"Email me!" — @rocket in #general, 6:53 PM 12 Jul 2017

"We can now set up integrations with other stuff.
The first thing is to make a private channel for Janitors that get's posts a message for each email we get. The purpose is so that all the janitors can be across what's coming in (if they want) without having to log into the email. And hopefully more people can start responding or inputing in how we should respond if they want." — @celery in #general, 1:24 PM 1 Aug 2017

"I use my ipad – what do you use?" — @parsley in #general, 9:32 PM 1 Aug 2017

"shucks guys! Too much. Pam is an absolute legend. One of her books is in the library if you feel like reading her poems" — @sage in #general, 4:39 PM 8 Aug 2017

"@tomato haven't noticed that " — @coslettuce in #general, 10:06 AM 19 Aug 2017

"I would try with the new batteries first " — @parsley in #general, 8:23 PM 22 Aug 2017

"*Current financial energy = freely available money to cover operating expenses and new projects, not earmarked for ongoing or planned projects." — @parsley in #general, 11:26 AM 28 Aug 2017

"See you at open house next week" — @parsley in #general, 5:03 PM 29 Aug 2017

"reading it right now @spinach very poetic image 🎼" — @rocket in #general, 4:01 PM 1 Sep 2017

"Here it is 🙂 http://www.frontyardprojects.org/events/" — @rocket in #general, 1:56 PM 15 Sep 2017

"Also, if you post or write anything about the residency do let us know! Also, also, feel free to book any of the spaces using the calendar and hang out any time now you're in the residents club 🙂" — @spinach in #general, 10:59 AM 25 Sep 2017

"That's it :D" — @sorrel in #general, 10:06 AM 30 Sep 2017

"I will see you there. and ask if that helps them" — @thyme in #general, 3:25 PM 29 Sep 2017

"Hey ▓▓▓▓▓ likewise! We'll leave the equipment where it is for now. See you one of these days!" — @rocket in #general, 9:02 AM 10 Oct 2017

"Organising continues in <#C4R9Z18T1|library>" — @spinach in #general, 11:49 AM 9 Oct 2017

"In the email chain with ▓▓▓▓ there's the shorter version I sent through in case that's useful." — @coslettuce in #general, 12:15 PM 12 Oct 2017

"Should be fixed 🔧 @nasturtium " — @parsley in #general, 11:05 PM 11 Oct 2017

"> ▓▓▓▓▓▓ and his boyfriend ▓▓▓ are in residence and offered their car if we need it for transport
@rosemary I'll pick up the stuff tomorrow and drive it down and pick it up on Sunday 🙂 If they're up for spending some time on the table cataloging that would be great!" — @coslettuce in #general, 10:23 AM 12 Oct 2017

"shared a blurb on general that i've sent to a few friends – i'll leave it up to others if they want to do a central email – each of us rounding up a few personal connections we'd like to get along might be more organic." — @silverbeet in #general, 4:22 PM 12 Oct 2017

"we'll try to have something around but it's always a good idea to bring nibbles to artspace as there's not much around there to snack on." — @coslettuce in #general, 2:41 PM 12 Oct 2017

"See you there." — @sweetpotato in #general, 5:34 PM 12 Oct 2017

"@spinach cool, you are a legend! thank you🖤" — @rocket in #general, 5:27 PM 12 Oct 2017

"Agreed." — @coslettuce in #general, 8:57 PM 12 Oct 2017

"Hi ▓▓▓ Thanks for the tip! I heard about that too. Still thinking about that…" — @sage in #general, 10:27 PM 16 Oct 2017

"Can someone please upload some pics to Flickr of the book fair– thank you all! " — @sage in #general, 8:47 AM 18 Oct 2017

"Also, there's no topics or whatever, everything is welcome, whatever you're reading belongs there 🙂" — @tomato in #general, 3:27 PM 31 Oct 2017

"@strawberry ok, let's see how much we can do on Thursday " — @strawberry in #library, 8:14 AM 2 May 2017

"Wednesday arvo is good 🙂 from 2:30?" — @borage in #library, 9:13 AM 10 Oct 2017

"thank you so much Sally– beautiful album!!!" — @silverbeet in #library, 6:09 PM 24 Oct 2017

" Thanks @thyme, could you please check when you have a minute? Either ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ or ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ is fine. Don't think it has to do with the white listing. Cheers :)" — @strawberry in #tech–discussions, 7:08 PM 8 May 2017

"Can you make 6pm next Tuesday @celery ? I think it would be good to work this all out and do something on the spot 🙂" — @sweetpotato in #tech–discussions, 1:45 PM 19 May 2017

"tots" — @celery in #tech–discussions, 7:00 PM 23 May 2017

"▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ : What does this exactly mean? No email access to ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ — @rosemary in #tech–discussions, 9:33 PM 23 May 2017

"👍" — @parsley in #tech–discussions, 9:50 PM 23 May 2017

"it would be great if someone using gmail infra could initiate a test actually –" — @silverbeet in #tech–discussions, 8:17 PM 23 May 2017

"> Cool link, Thanks ▓▓▓ 🙂

It's a handy one ☺" — @borage in #tech-discussions, 10:03 AM 2 Oct 2017
"Oh I totally did not get that!" — @thyme in #tech-discussions, 6:46 PM 2 Oct 2017
"https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=274378" — @celery in #most17, 11:22 AM 16 May 2017
"Maybe we do it from scratch art space so we feel centred " — @strawberry in #most17, 9:28 AM 17 May 2017
"What a legend. Could someone please add the text from https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HdBwF-st5JP-r_bwaZjs0prVebMQwzLalOmic28pTMk/edit to it?" — @thyme in #most17, 9:35 AM 17 May 2017
█████: Thanks 🖤" — @coslettuce in #most17, 9:38 AM 17 May 2017
"Oh I see now, I had the mobile version link. Thanks!" — @strawberry in #most17, 10:23 AM 17 May 2017
█████: Perfecto!" — @thyme in #most17, 9:56 PM 17 May 2017
"Hey lovely @nasturtium We can use paper already at scratch so only need the markers and post it's from Donna. You tell me what is workable your end. Perhaps you can just bring em when you come? " — @celery in #most17, 6:07 PM 17 May 2017
"🔭" — @tomato in #most17, 2:41 PM 18 May 2017
"re time trumpet: A time trumpet is a graphic way to engage in designing FROM the future BACK to today (and beyond) — referred to as BACKCASTING. It is currently set up to plot significant dates and events from 1997 > 2017 > 2037. Using the technique suggested above, you'll be able to trace certain trajectories and also plot projections from expert research agencies (many of the climate science ones are referred to as "hockey sticks" — have a guess why…?)" — @thyme in #most17, 10:45 AM 19 May 2017
"@sorrel thanks so much for coming and contributing. You too @parsley and @tomato! " — @sage in #most17, 4:34 PM 19 May 2017
":hugging_face:" — @rosemary in #most17, 4:35 PM 19 May 2017
"@rosemary have a lovely time! Sydney will miss you" — @thyme in #most17, 11:08 PM 21 May 2017
█████: If there's a better day let me know too" — @silverbeet in #most17, 5:36 PM 22 May 2017
"@strawberry thanks or starting this. I'm flat out this week but will check back in to this Friday/Saturday. " — @strawberry in #most17, 3:59 PM 23 May 2017
"Just bought it in Canberra!" — @sweetpotato in #readinggroup, 9:28 PM 20 Aug 2017
"Cool, thanks ████ — @coslettuce in #residencies, 2:03 PM 17 Jul 2017
"Thanks @rocket 👍:skin-tone-2:" — @celery in #residencies, 5:43 PM 27 Aug 2017
"The MoU is now in the contact form, so it's just one place now https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDIDGf2VEehqvH2H8tz05irIR2l86vPfu8li_M66K_3Pp67A/viewform" — @tomato in #residencies, 3:59 PM 7 Sep 2017
"Thurs Aug 3 4.30–6.30pm SL & CA Thurs Sep 7 4.30–6.30pm LB + ? Thurs Oct 5 4.30–6.30pm ? + ?" — @rosemary in #openhouse, 11:59 AM 6 Jul 2017
"Thank you!" — @sweetpotato in #crunchycinema, 1:48 PM 28 Jul 2017
"Next Wednesday, I think that's possible, and not at all, appreciate ideas and help, I'll send you a direct message…1 moment…" — @celery in #crunchycinema, 1:35 PM 10 Aug 2017

"Looking forward to it! ☺" — @sweetpotato in #crunchycinema, 1:46 PM 22 Sep 2017
"166 total" — @thyme in #volume2017, 7:39 PM 14 Oct 2017
"The image sizing is wacked out in chrome and safari, sorry—load it up in firefox for best effect for now ☺" — @borage in #volume2017, 12:24 AM 15 Oct 2017
"@parsley hashtag instatoomanyhashtags! thanks for documenting x" — @rosemary in #volume2017, 8:48 PM 15 Oct 2017
"On provenance — this might be of interest to you too — https://medium.com/on-archivy/radtech-meets-radarch-towards-a-new-principle-for-archives-and-archival-description-568f133e4325" — @parsley in #reading-fast, 7:46 PM 31 Oct 2017

GLOSS-ARY + INDEX

Abundance: There is plenty. Please harvest the food in the Frontyard garden. (p.86-100)

Anti-curatorial: Frontyard does not curate, it facilitates, holding space for all kinds of activities. Frontyard has emergent themes that grow from slow participatory processes. (p.42-73)

Art: Thinking through problems, space, language, time.

Artist: Someone who commits acts of art. An occupation.

Archive: Surplus imagery; Flickr. The wear and tear on the spaces we use and on our bodies. (p.82-83; 128-137)

ARI: Artist Run Initiative. Artists are in charge. Not to be confused with R-eys (RSL clubs) or Ari's Takeaway on Elizabeth Street, Hobart.

ARI-ish: Has some characteristics of an ARI.

Back-casting: Desiging from the future we want back to the decisions we have to make. (p.140-141)

Book: A material manifestation (digital or physical) of a moment. It circulates. It is designed and made. And it is read (hopefully). It lives in an archive, at a bedside, or in conversation. (p.7)

Commons: Shared resources, shared space, shared systems. (p.161-163)

Commoning: Creating, maintaining or sharing the commons through tending, planting, harvesting, cataloguing, opening, coding, fixing, performing. (p.94-98)

Conversation: An exchange of ideas between people. Sometimes they are hard to follow, exhausting and impossible to document. What is said. What is not said. What is really said. This project is the result of many conversations and began with a conversation between Frontyard and Hobiennale17. At Frontyard, many conversations happen at open houses, over tea, and online at https://frontyard-slackin.herokuapp.com/ Can conversations be had with rocks or chickens? (p.140-149)

Context: The stuff around us. The place and time where we are making and working.

Creative Commons: Licences to facilitate sharing and reuse of creative content. We use one for our photo archive (CC BY-SA 2.0). (p.76-77)

Critical: Asks 'why?'; questioning of the status quo, curious about possibilities; making boundaries visible; does not assume structures of power are legitimate without explanation.

Cult: Follows an idea largely without question.

Ephemera: Spineless works; things to catalogue; things that break down. (p.10-11; 92-93)

Frontyard: 228 Illawarra Rd, Marrickville NSW 2204; http://www.frontyardprojects.org.

Futuring: Thinking about 2050, for example, or some other possible time; expanding and defending possibility. (p.140-142)

Garden: At Frontyard we grow plants to share food. Is the garden thriving? So are we. (p.33-41; 84-98)

Hobiennale: A free festival in Hobart with artist-run initiatives from across Australia and New Zealand.

Holistic Accounting: Our financial decisions are not separate to other decisions. We learn this kind of accounting from The Accountability Institute.

Institutional: Security, paid employers, fixed setup, bureaucracy, structural, cyclic. A frame to rebel against.

Janitor: Someone who takes care of Frontyard.

Non-Cash Asset: Not money, but the other things of value that can be shared: skills, equipment, space, libraries, gardens, time. (p.76)

Non-commercial: There are many types of transactions, such as gifting, bartering, swapping, releasing, discarding, stealing, saving, trading. Buying is just one.

Not-Only-Artist Run Initiative: We value artists. And we value other kinds of people too. Not everyone is an artist.

Open: The circulation of fluid and shared information. Being open is really about making edges transparent. Prioritising potential, unexpected use.

Open Door Dinners: We host these at Frontyard; pot luck; Make/bring food to share. (p.100-101; 172)

Open House: A strategy to lighten the email load; Frontyard is not always open because people are not always around. At an Open House, there are definitely people there. You can book in a residency and have a conversation.

Peppercorn Rent: The amount paid by Frontyard to Inner West Council for our building. The amount paid by City Farm to Kickstart Arts for the land they use. A very good way to support ideas that need space.

Primer: a beginning, a preparation; an object, document or conversation that begins or prepares. (p.15-33)

Radical Transparency: Our default position. We publish all our financial statements on our website. We are open about how and why we make decisions. We design systems and structures to maintain this.

Residency: There are two residency spaces at Frontyard. They are not for sleeping in at night. They are for being in, spending time, working, making and thinking. When people are using these spaces we call those people residents.

Safe Space: Everyone is treated with respect.

Site: The location where some art might be made, specifically. (p.102-115)

Spoons: Unit of energy for participation in activities during the day. These need to be conserved, managed, and shared with care. We only have the spoons we have. (p.158)

Spoon Theory: A way of accounting for our emotional or physical energy and therefore our ability to participate in activities. Spoon theory can be used to collaborate with care and avoid guilt and burn out. Usually spoon theory is applied at an individual level, but it can also be used by organisations. For example, Frontyard had enough spoons to participate in the Hobiennale, so we decided to give it a go. Apparently spoon theory is quite big in Canberra. (p.158-159)

Spoonless: Nothing left. But tomorrow is a new day.

Surplus: More than what is needed or used, excess, something extra to the requirements of life. Not just eating, sleeping working etc. In economic theory and coming from Marx, there is a surplus (Mehrwert) extra value that is not only expressed as profit or money.

Unfunded: Recieves no funding external to that provided by the community; free from accountability to external funders.